



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 149**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE FARMERS' MARKET  
NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-6g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 For the purposes of sections 22-6g to 22-6p, inclusive, as amended by  
4 this act:

5 (1) "Application" means a request made by an individual to the  
6 department for [vendor] farmer certification in CFM/WIC on a form  
7 provided by the department;

8 (2) ["Authorized farmers' market"] "Authorized benefit location"  
9 means a farmers' market, farm stand or mobile market that operates  
10 within the service area and is a site authorized by the department for  
11 the exchange of [vouchers] benefits and Connecticut-grown fresh  
12 produce and honey;

13 (3) ["Certified vendor"] "Certified farmer" means an individual who  
14 has met all CFM/WIC conditions as outlined by the department and  
15 who is guaranteed payment on all [vouchers] benefits accepted,  
16 provided compliance is maintained by that individual regarding all  
17 CFM/WIC rules and procedures as outlined in the [vendor] farmer

18 certification handbook;

19 [(4) "Certified vendor identification stamp" means a department-  
20 issued stamp that shall be utilized by the certified vendor during each  
21 occurrence of voucher deposit in the financial institution of certified  
22 vendor choice. This stamp shall remain the sole property of the  
23 department and shall be forfeited by the certified vendor to the  
24 department in the event of suspension;]

25 [(5) "Certified vendor identification sign"] (4) "Certified farmer  
26 identification sign" means a department-issued sign which shall be  
27 clearly displayed by the certified [vendor] farmer at all times when  
28 accepting or intending to accept [vouchers] benefits in an authorized  
29 [farmers' market] benefit location. Signs shall remain the sole property  
30 of the department and shall be forfeited by the certified [vendor] farmer  
31 to the department in the event of suspension;

32 [(6) "Certified vendor number" means a personal identification  
33 number issued by the department and assigned to an individual whom  
34 the department has identified as a certified vendor;]

35 [(7)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

36 [(8)] (6) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

37 [(9)] (7) "Designated distribution WIC clinic" means a site authorized  
38 by the department for dispersal of [vouchers] benefits by the local WIC  
39 agency;

40 [(10)] (8) "Distribution" means the process outlined by the  
41 department and the means by which local WIC agencies actually  
42 [dispense vouchers] distribute benefits to eligible participants;

43 [(11)] (9) "Farm products" means any fresh fruits, vegetables,  
44 mushrooms, nuts, shell eggs, honey or other bee products, maple syrup  
45 or maple sugar, flowers, nursery stock and other horticultural  
46 commodities, livestock food products, including meat, milk, cheese and  
47 other dairy products, food products of "aquaculture", as defined in

48 subsection (q) of section 1-1, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and  
49 other molluscan shellfish taken from the waters of the state or tidal  
50 wetlands, products from any tree, vine or plant and their flowers, or any  
51 of the products listed in this subdivision that have been processed by  
52 the participating farmer, including, but not limited to, baked goods  
53 made with farm products;

54 [(12)] (10) "Farmers' market" means a cooperative or nonprofit  
55 enterprise or association that consistently occupies a given site  
56 throughout the season, which operates principally as a common  
57 marketplace for a group of farmers, at least two of whom are selling  
58 Connecticut-grown fresh produce, to sell Connecticut-grown farm  
59 products directly to consumers, and where the products sold are  
60 produced by the participating farmers with the sole intent and purpose  
61 of generating a portion of household income;

62 [(13)] (11) "Fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have not  
63 been processed in any manner and chicken eggs;

64 [(14)] (12) "CFM/WIC" means the Connecticut farmers' market  
65 [supplemental food] nutrition program for women, infants and children  
66 participants as administered by the department;

67 [(15)] (13) "Local WIC agency" means an entity that [administers local  
68 health programs and which has entered into contract for voucher  
69 distribution and related service with the department] contracts with the  
70 Department of Public Health for the administration of the WIC program  
71 and distributes benefits to eligible WIC participants;

72 [(16)] (14) "Connecticut-grown" means produce and other farm  
73 products, [that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut] as  
74 defined in section 22-38;

75 [(17)] (15) "Posted hours and days" means the operational time frames  
76 stated in assurances submitted by a duly authorized representative of  
77 an authorized [farmers' market] benefit location which includes a  
78 beginning and an ending date for each year of operation;

79 [(18)] (16) "Participant" means a client of WIC who is at least one year  
80 of age, who possesses one of the WIC classification codes selected for  
81 inclusion by the Department of Public Health and who is an active  
82 participant in a designated distribution clinic;

83 [(19)] (17) "Season" means a clearly delineated period of time during  
84 a given year that has a beginning date and ending date, as specified by  
85 the department, which correlates with a major portion of the harvest  
86 period for Connecticut-grown fresh produce;

87 [(20)] (18) "Service area" means the geographic areas that encompass  
88 all of the designated distribution clinics and authorized [farmers'  
89 markets] benefit locations within Connecticut for a given season;

90 [(21)] (19) "USDA-FNS" means the United States Department of  
91 Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Service;

92 [(22) "Vendor certification handbook"] (20) "Farmer certification  
93 handbook" means a publication by the department that is based on  
94 USDA-FNS mandates and guidelines, addresses CFM/WIC rules and  
95 procedures applicable to a certified [vendor,] farmer and provides the  
96 basis for [vendor] farmer training. A copy of the publication shall be  
97 issued to each individual prior to application. New editions supersede  
98 all previous editions;

99 [(23) "Voucher"] (21) "Benefit" means a [negotiable instrument]  
100 monetary amount issued by the department to participants that is  
101 redeemable only for Connecticut-grown fresh unprocessed produce  
102 from certified [vendors] farmers at authorized [farmers' markets]  
103 benefit locations, with a limited negotiable period that directly  
104 correlates to the season designated by the department; and

105 [(24)] (22) "WIC" means the special supplemental food program for  
106 women, infants and children, as administered by the Department of  
107 Public Health.

108 Sec. 2. Section 22-6h of the general statutes is repealed and the

109 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

110 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' [Market/Women,]  
111 Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children [Nutrition  
112 Program] which [shall] may be jointly funded by the state of  
113 Connecticut and the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States  
114 Department of Agriculture. The program shall supply Connecticut-  
115 grown fresh produce to participants of the [special supplemental food]  
116 CFM/WIC program through the distribution of [vouchers] benefits that  
117 are redeemable only at [designated Connecticut farmers' markets]  
118 authorized benefit locations in Connecticut. The program is designed to  
119 provide both a supplemental source of fresh produce for the dietary  
120 needs of women, infants and children who are [judged] determined to  
121 be at nutritional risk and to stimulate an increased demand for  
122 Connecticut-grown fresh produce at authorized Connecticut [farmers'  
123 markets] benefit locations.

124 (b) The program shall be administered by the Commissioner of  
125 Agriculture who shall maintain all conditions as outlined in the farmers'  
126 market nutrition program agreement entered into with USDA-FNS, as  
127 amended.

128 Sec. 3. Section 22-6i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

130 (a) The Department of Public Health WIC client screening processes  
131 and records shall provide the basis for identifying participants eligible  
132 for receipt of [vouchers] benefits.

133 (b) Local WIC agencies shall distribute [vouchers] benefits at  
134 designated distribution clinics to participants in the manner specified  
135 by the department in the program and procedures guide for distribution  
136 clinic staff. Local WIC agency services shall ensure that:

137 [(1) Vouchers are distributed only to participants through verification  
138 that the client name and number on the distribution registry provided  
139 by the Department of Public Health correspond with the client name

140 and number printed on the WIC identification folder in the possession  
141 of the participant.]

142 [(2)] (1) Each eligible participant is issued [five three-dollar vouchers  
143 during each distribution as authorized by the department] a benefit  
144 amount, determined annually, based on the federal and state allocation  
145 for the given program year.

146 [(3)] The voucher serial numbers issued to the participant correspond  
147 to the number in the distribution registry in which the participant  
148 signature is affixed.

149 (4) Each voucher issued and the distribution registry are properly  
150 signed by the participant in the presence of local agency staff at the time  
151 of distribution or, if a proxy is utilized, a written, electronic or verbal  
152 communication is made by the participant or such proxy which  
153 acknowledges receipt from the local agency staff at the time of  
154 distribution.]

155 [(5)] (2) Any adult may act as a proxy provided the participant  
156 designates such adult as [his or her] such adult's proxy in writing.

157 [(6)] (3) Each participant is provided a thorough explanation of  
158 program guidelines and participant responsibility as outlined by the  
159 department.

160 [(7)] (4) All CFM/WIC support materials are put into use as outlined  
161 by the department.

162 [(8)] (5) Accurate and complete records of all related CFM/WIC  
163 activities in the possession of a WIC local agency are maintained and  
164 retained for a minimum of [four] three years. In the event of litigation,  
165 negotiation, or audit findings, the records shall be retained until all  
166 issues arising from such actions have been resolved or until the end of  
167 the regular [four-year] three-year period, whichever is later.

168 [(9)] (6) All agency records pertaining to this program shall be made  
169 available for inspection to representatives of USDA-FNS, the

170 Comptroller General of the United States, the state Auditors of Public  
171 Accounts, the department, and the Department of Public Health as  
172 necessary, at any time during normal business hours, and as frequently  
173 as is deemed necessary for inspection and audit. Confidentiality of  
174 personal information shall be maintained as to all program participants  
175 at all times.

176 Sec. 4. Section 22-6j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

178 Participants shall be responsible for:

179 (1) [Qualifying under WIC program guidelines and attending]  
180 Attending a designated distribution clinic during the relevant  
181 distribution cycles when [vouchers are dispersed] benefits are  
182 disbursed;

183 [(2) Properly countersigning a voucher prior to use;]

184 [(3)] (2) Using [vouchers] benefits only to purchase Connecticut-  
185 grown fresh produce from certified [vendors] farmers who display  
186 [CFM/WIC signs at authorized farmers' markets] a certified farmer  
187 identification poster at authorized benefit locations;

188 [(4)] (3) Redeeming [vouchers] benefits on or before the expiration  
189 date [printed on the face] of the [voucher] benefit or surrendering all  
190 claim to the value of [vouchers] benefits that remain unredeemed;

191 [(5)] (4) Ensuring [vouchers] benefits that are received are not  
192 assigned to any other party other than as provided by the [department]  
193 program;

194 [(6)] (5) Reporting violations or problems to the department or the  
195 local agency; and

196 [(7)] (6) Reporting all incidents of lost or stolen [vouchers] benefits to  
197 the local agency.

198 Sec. 5. Section 22-6k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
199 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

200 (a) Each authorized [farmers' market] benefit location shall maintain  
201 records of operation which shall be provided to the department and  
202 which shall include posted hours and days and shall be signed by a duly  
203 authorized representative of the [farmers' market] benefit location.  
204 [Farmers' market] Benefit location assurances shall be submitted in a  
205 manner outlined by the department and shall provide evidence of:

206 (1) Whether a [farmers' market] benefit location possesses the  
207 capability to serve the additional demands brought about by  
208 distribution of [vouchers] benefits in the area without causing undue  
209 harm to the existing farmers' market, farm stands or mobile market  
210 consumer base; and

211 (2) A willingness by persons associated with the [farmers' market]  
212 authorized benefit location to meet all [CFM/WIC] program  
213 requirements. Information submitted by a [farmers' market] benefit  
214 location shall include, but not be limited to:

215 (A) The number of Connecticut-grown fresh produce [vendor] farmer  
216 participants;

217 (B) Hours of operation to be maintained per week;

218 (C) Season of operation; and

219 (D) Accessibility and consistency of [farmers' market] benefit  
220 location.

221 (b) The department shall give priority to a [farmers' market] benefit  
222 location with previous involvement in CFM/WIC provided the  
223 [farmers' market] benefit location has maintained the conditions  
224 outlined in its [farmers' market] assurances and does not have a high  
225 incidence of certified [vendor] farmer noncompliance or suspensions.

226 [(c) In determining a farmers' market's authorization, the

227 commissioner shall consider the number of eligible applications  
228 received by the department prior to the first of May which indicate the  
229 intent to participate in the proposed farmers' market. The standard for  
230 the authorization of a single or principal farmers' market in a county  
231 shall be one eligible application for every one hundred participants who  
232 participate in the distribution clinic in said county. A minimum of two  
233 or more eligible applications shall be required for a farmers' market to  
234 receive authorization.

235 (d) The number of farmers' markets authorized for the season shall  
236 be determined by the department no later than the thirty-first day of  
237 May prior to each season.]

238 Sec. 6. Section 22-6l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
239 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

240 (a) [Vendor] Farmer certification shall not be in effect and [vouchers]  
241 benefits shall not be accepted until receipt by the applicant of a certified  
242 [vendor] farmer identification [stamp, a certified vendor identification  
243 sign] poster and the applicant copy of the [department-vendor]  
244 department-farmer agreement.

245 (b) Each [vendor] farmer certification shall be valid for three years.  
246 The department shall not limit the number of [vendors] farmers who  
247 may become certified under CFM/WIC. A [vendor] farmer who  
248 satisfies all the following criteria shall be certified to accept [vouchers]  
249 benefits:

250 (1) Agrees to maintain only Connecticut-grown fresh produce on  
251 display in a certified [vendor] farmer stall;

252 (2) Indicates an intent to participate in one or more authorized  
253 [farmers' markets] benefit locations;

254 (3) [Demonstrates participation] Participates in training on  
255 CFM/WIC rules and procedures through attendance in an entire  
256 session of one of the scheduled training meetings conducted by

257 department staff [;] and completes an annual online learning module  
258 and receives a passing score on a knowledge test; and

259 [(4) Submits a signed statement of receipts of a vendor certification  
260 handbook;]

261 [(5)] (4) Submits a timely completed application and crop plan to the  
262 department [prior to the deadline established by the department; and]  
263 utilizing the application form and processes established by the  
264 department.

265 [(6) Submits completed and signed certified vendor agreements to the  
266 department.]

267 Sec. 7. Section 22-6m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
268 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

269 (a) A certified [vendor] farmer may accept [vouchers] benefits only  
270 for a transaction that takes place at [a certified farmers' market] an  
271 authorized benefit location and only in exchange for Connecticut-grown  
272 fresh produce and may accept [vouchers] benefits as payment for  
273 Connecticut-grown fresh produce only if presented [on or before the  
274 usage expiration date printed on the face of the voucher] by an eligible  
275 participant.

276 (b) A certified [vendor] farmer shall (1) prominently display a  
277 certified [vendor identification sign] farmer identification poster as  
278 outlined in the certified [vendor] farmer handbook, (2) provide  
279 Connecticut-grown fresh produce and honey to participants upon  
280 receipt of [a valid and properly completed voucher, which is signed by  
281 the WIC client] benefits, (3) handle transactions with [WIC] participants  
282 in the same manner as transactions with all other customers, (4) not  
283 collect state or local taxes on purchases involving [vouchers] benefits,  
284 (5) charge participants a price for Connecticut-grown fresh produce that  
285 is equal to or less than the current price charged to nonparticipant  
286 customers, (6) not levy a surcharge based on the use of [vouchers]  
287 benefits by participants, (7) return no cash or issue credit in any form to

288 participants during sales transactions that involve [vouchers] benefits  
289 only and in the event of a single transaction in which a participant  
290 presents a combination of cash and [vouchers] benefits for the purchase  
291 of Connecticut-grown fresh produce and honey, cash or credit up to the  
292 value of the cash portion of the payment shall be given to the  
293 participant, (8) participate in training as the department deems  
294 necessary to carry out the intent of CFM/WIC, (9) cooperate with the  
295 department in the evaluation of each season by completely and  
296 accurately responding to a survey, with resubmission to the department  
297 in a specified and timely manner, (10) immediately inform the  
298 department in the event of loss, destruction [.] or theft of [either the  
299 certified vendor endorsement stamp or] a certified [vendor] farmer  
300 identification [sign] poster so that a replacement may be issued, and (11)  
301 comply with all procedures and rules as herein outlined and as  
302 delineated in the [department-vendor] department-farmer agreement,  
303 the certified [vendor] farmer handbook and official written notices of  
304 clarification issued by the department to the [vendor] farmer.

305 Sec. 8. Section 22-6n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
306 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

307 (a) [The commissioner shall return a voucher to a certified vendor  
308 unpaid if the certified vendor identification number is not properly  
309 affixed to the back of the voucher, the certified vendor does not endorse  
310 the voucher or the participant's signature is missing on the face of the  
311 voucher.] A [voucher] transaction may be resubmitted for payment in  
312 the event that the [signature or vendor certification identification] error  
313 can be properly and legally corrected by the certified [vendor] farmer.  
314 Violations of CFM/WIC procedures and rules applicable to a certified  
315 [vendor] farmer shall be identified as Class I violations, Class II  
316 violations and Class III violations. Violations involving the use of  
317 multiple [vouchers] benefits in a single sales transaction shall be  
318 considered as a single violation. Violations involving multiple sales  
319 transactions, regardless of time elapsed, shall be considered multiple  
320 violations at a standard of one violation per sales transaction.

321 (b) For Class I violations, the commissioner shall issue a warning  
322 letter to the violating certified [vendor] farmer. Failure to appropriately  
323 display the certified [vendor] farmer identification [sign] poster and  
324 prices as specified in the signage requirements shall constitute a Class I  
325 violation.

326 (c) For Class II violations, the commissioner shall issue an official  
327 written citation of noncompliance to the violating certified [vendor]  
328 farmer. The following shall constitute Class II violations:

329 (1) Noncompliance with rules and procedures as outlined in the  
330 [vendor] farmer certification handbook and in the [department-vendor]  
331 department-farmer agreement which is not specifically identified as a  
332 Class I violation;

333 (2) Participant is charged a price that is greater than that charged  
334 nonparticipant or is charged for items not received;

335 (3) Refusal to accept valid [vouchers] benefits for Connecticut-grown  
336 fresh produce and honey;

337 (4) Failure to permit or comply with procedures regarding inspection  
338 of evidence by the department when point of origin of fresh produce  
339 and honey on display or offered for sale in a certified [vendor] farmer  
340 staff is in question;

341 (5) Abusive or discriminatory treatment of participants or CFM/WIC  
342 staff;

343 (6) Displaying or offering for sale non-Connecticut-grown fresh  
344 produce and honey in a certified [vendor] farmer stall;

345 (7) An authorized [farmers' market] benefit location is neither open  
346 nor staffed during posted hours and days during the season in which  
347 the certified [vendor] farmer is a designated participant; or

348 (8) The second like instance of a Class I violation by a single certified  
349 [vendor] farmer.

350 (d) For Class III violations, the commissioner shall suspend the  
351 violating [vendor] farmer from participation in CFM/WIC. The  
352 following shall constitute Class III violations:

353 (1) A third Class I violation by a single [vendor] farmer;

354 (2) The second of two Class II violations of the same type by a single  
355 [vendor;] farmer; or

356 (3) Exchanging ineligible products or cash for [vouchers; or] benefits.

357 [(4) Cashing vouchers for a noncertified market.]

358 (e) The commissioner shall issue a written official notice of  
359 noncompliance to the certified [vendor] farmer within seventy-two  
360 hours of receipt of evidence involving an act of noncompliance.  
361 Suspension of a certified [vendor] farmer from participation in  
362 CFM/WIC shall remain in effect for the remainder of the season. An  
363 exception shall occur when suspension occurs within thirty days of the  
364 expiration date for [voucher] benefit usage by participants. In such case,  
365 suspension shall also include the entire season of the following calendar  
366 year. In the event of a suspension, the [vendor] farmer shall reimburse  
367 the commissioner for the value of any [vouchers] benefits deposited and  
368 paid upon after the official date of suspension notification. At the  
369 conclusion of a suspension period, the [vendor] farmer may reapply for  
370 certification in order to resume participation in CFM/WIC.

371 (f) Any [vendor] farmer successfully recertified following a  
372 suspension shall be on probationary status for one full season.  
373 Recurrence of a Class II violation during the probationary period and  
374 for which the certified [vendor] farmer has been cited shall be sufficient  
375 grounds for immediate and automatic suspension.

376 Sec. 9. Section 22-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
377 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

378 A written notice of noncompliance or suspension from the  
379 department shall be pending for seventy-two hours of receipt by the

380 certified [vendor] farmer. The certified [vendor] farmer shall be granted  
381 the pending period for presenting sufficient evidence to the department  
382 to substantiate a reversal. Remedies undertaken in response to receipt  
383 of written notice of a pending citation of noncompliance or suspension  
384 shall not constitute evidence in defense of such citation. Failure to  
385 present any evidence to the department within the specified pending  
386 period shall constitute acceptance of the citation of noncompliance or  
387 suspension by the certified [vendor] farmer. Submission of insufficient  
388 evidence by the certified [vendor] farmer for determination of reversal  
389 on the pending citation by the department shall result in an official  
390 citation of noncompliance or suspension upon completion of the  
391 pending period.

392 Sec. 10. Section 22-6p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
393 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

394 (a) Assurances, on forms provided by the department, [must] shall be  
395 submitted no later than the first day of March in order for the [farmers'  
396 market] authorized benefit location to receive consideration of  
397 authorization for the upcoming season.

398 [(b) All applications shall be submitted no later than one month  
399 preceding the last date in which vouchers may be used by participants  
400 at authorized farmers' markets.]

401 [(c)Vouchers] (b) Benefits shall be valid from the time of issue  
402 through the season ending date as designated by the department. [Such  
403 date shall be clearly printed on the voucher face. Voucher] Benefit usage  
404 shall be null and void after [expiration date] the end of the season.

405 [(d) All vouchers accepted by a certified vendor shall be deposited on  
406 or before thirty days following the date of expiration for voucher usage  
407 by participants. Such date shall be clearly printed on the front of  
408 vouchers. Any claim to voucher payment beyond the voucher  
409 reimbursement expiration date is not valid and shall be denied.]

410 [(e)] (c) Deadlines for submission of records, reports, survey

411 instruments and undistributed [vouchers] benefits by local agencies  
412 shall be established by the department and specified in the agreement  
413 entered into with the local agency.

414 [(f)] (d) The department shall develop and submit a completed  
415 operations report in January in a manner prescribed by USDA-FNS  
416 which summarizes the [CFM/WIC] program operations for the  
417 previous year.

418 Sec. 11. Section 22-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
419 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

420 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior  
421 Nutrition Program which shall be provided for from funds available to  
422 the commissioner and from other sources as such funds may become  
423 available. The program shall supply Connecticut-grown fresh produce  
424 and honey to senior participants through the distribution of [vouchers]  
425 benefits that are redeemable only at designated Connecticut [farmers'  
426 markets] benefit locations. For purposes of this section, a "senior  
427 participant" is defined as a person who is sixty years of age or older and  
428 is currently residing in elderly housing, or is a participant of a registered  
429 congregate meal site, or has been identified by a municipal elderly agent  
430 as being at nutritional risk. The program is designed to provide both a  
431 supplemental source of fresh produce and honey for the dietary needs  
432 of seniors who are [judged] determined to be at nutritional risk and to  
433 stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-grown produce and  
434 honey at Connecticut [farmers' markets] benefit locations. For purposes  
435 of this section, "fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have  
436 not been processed in any manner and chicken eggs.

437 (b) The program shall be administered by the Commissioner of  
438 Agriculture who shall maintain all conditions for its operations.

439 Sec. 12. Section 22-26k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
440 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

441 [(a)] There is established a farm transition grant program which shall

442 be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Matching grants  
443 shall be made to farmers and agricultural cooperatives for  
444 diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value added  
445 agricultural production and sales, and developing farmers' markets and  
446 other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

447 [(b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall adopt regulations, in  
448 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the administration of  
449 the program established by this section. Such regulations shall require  
450 the development of business plans by applicants as part of the  
451 application process.]

452 Sec. 13. Section 22-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
453 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

454 No person shall use any words, titles or names designated by the  
455 Commissioner of Agriculture, under the provisions of sections 22-27, 22-  
456 28 and 22-29 [,] and subsection (b) of section 22-31, [and section 22-33,]  
457 for use in grading or marketing of farm products, unless the products  
458 which he is identifying, advertising, designating or describing thereby  
459 fully meet the requirements of the official grade indicated by such  
460 words, titles or names. If, in the opinion of the Commissioner of  
461 Agriculture or his representative, any lot or lots of such products so  
462 identified, advertised, designated or described are not of the grade  
463 indicated, said commissioner shall cause inspections thereof to be made  
464 by regularly appointed inspectors for the purpose of determining the  
465 actual grade of such products. Any person, firm or corporation which  
466 violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than fifty  
467 dollars for the first offense and not more than two hundred dollars for  
468 each subsequent offense.

469 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the 2026 supplement to  
470 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
471 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

472 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person  
473 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of

474 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)  
475 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25,  
476 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-  
477 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of  
478 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-  
479 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of  
480 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-  
481 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-  
482 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection  
483 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section  
484 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-  
485 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,  
486 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,  
487 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of  
488 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section  
489 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,  
490 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58  
491 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,  
492 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,  
493 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,  
494 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-  
495 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b  
496 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-  
497 224, section 14-240 or 14-250, subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section  
498 14-251, section 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269,  
499 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of section 14-  
500 275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277, section 14-  
501 278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-283, section  
502 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-289l, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-  
503 298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326, 14-  
504 330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section 15-  
505 15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of  
506 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15,  
507 subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of  
508 section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152,

509 subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of  
510 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-  
511 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b,  
512 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224,  
513 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338,  
514 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-  
515 153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or  
516 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482,  
517 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or  
518 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100,  
519 subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section  
520 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25,  
521 section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61,  
522 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section  
523 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159,  
524 section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section  
525 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section  
526 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34, as  
527 amended by this act, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, [22-54,] 22-  
528 61j or 22-61l, subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l,  
529 subsection (f) of section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of  
530 section 22-61m, section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or  
531 22-111o, subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c)  
532 of section 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-  
533 324a or 22-326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or  
534 subsection (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b,  
535 subsection (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-  
536 359, 22-366, 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246,  
537 subsection (a) of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of  
538 section 22a-256h, section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of  
539 section 22a-381e, section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45,  
540 23-46 or 23-61b, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of  
541 section 23-65, section 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43,  
542 section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-  
543 43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection

544 (d) of section 26-61, section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76,  
545 section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89, 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-  
546 107, 26-114a, 26-117, subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-  
547 131, 26-132, 26-138, 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186,  
548 section 26-207, 26-215, 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-  
549 226, section 26-227, 26-230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-  
550 276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-  
551 292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13, 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or  
552 29-156a, subsection (b), (d), (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-  
553 161y or 29-161z, subdivision (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243  
554 or 29-277, subsection (c) of section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318,  
555 subsection (b) of section 29-335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a,  
556 subsection (b) of section 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117,  
557 section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11, 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23,  
558 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36, 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b,  
559 section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c)  
560 of section 31-69, section 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-  
561 134, subsection (i) of section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-  
562 1017, 34-13d or 34-412, subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of  
563 section 36a-57, subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-  
564 739, 36a-787, 38a-2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278,  
565 section 38a-479qq, 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713,  
566 38a-733, 38a-764, 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-470 or  
567 42-480, subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450,  
568 45a-634 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-  
569 59, 46a-81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53,  
570 subsection (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of  
571 section 47a-21, section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection  
572 (j) of section 52-362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-  
573 264, 53-280, 53-290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-  
574 323 or 53-331, subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344,  
575 subsection (b) or (c) of section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a,  
576 section 53-377, 53-422 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2)  
577 a violation under the provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any  
578 regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions of section 12-484,

579 12-487 or 13b-410, or (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or  
580 bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of building codes,  
581 the health code or an ordinance described in subdivision (5) of this  
582 subsection, for which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not  
583 exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has  
584 established a payment and hearing procedure for such violation  
585 pursuant to section 7-152c, or (5) a violation of any ordinance adopted  
586 by a town, city or borough pursuant to section 14-224a, 14-390 or 14-  
587 390m for which the penalty does not exceed two thousand dollars,  
588 unless such town, city or borough has established a payment and  
589 hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section 7-152c, shall  
590 follow the procedures set forth in this section.

591 Sec. 15. Section 22-33 and sections 22-50 to 22-54, inclusive, of the  
592 general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-6g
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-6h
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-6i
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-6j
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-6k
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-6l
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-6m
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-6n
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-6o
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-6p
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	22-6q
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	22-26k
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	22-34
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	51-164n(b)
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 3(b)(5), "four-year period" was changed to "[four-year] three-year period" for consistency.

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*