



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5042



Offered by:

SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.
SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 148

File No. 73

Cal. No. 73

"AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO AQUACULTURE-RELATED STATUTES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) There is established the Dairy
4 Modernization Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture.
5 The purpose of such program shall be to assist dairy farmers in the state
6 with investments in equipment, infrastructure and operational
7 upgrades. Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall establish
8 the parameters of such grant program, including, but not limited to: (1)
9 Eligibility criteria for such dairy farmers, (2) prioritization rules for the
10 use of funds available to said department for such program, (3) the
11 establishment of maximum award amounts under such program, (4)

12 eligible projects that program funds can be invested toward, (5) the
13 application process for any grant request, and (6) definitions for the
14 terms "infrastructure" and "operational upgrades".

15 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 12-217vv of the 2026 supplement to
16 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
17 thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to income and taxable years*
18 *commencing on or after January 1, 2028*):

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 (1) "Eligible farmer" means a taxpayer in this state whose federal
21 gross income from farming for the income or taxable year is at least two-
22 thirds of excess federal gross income or not less than two hundred fifty
23 thousand dollars;

24 (2) "Excess federal gross income" means the amount of federal gross
25 income from all sources for the income or taxable year in excess of thirty
26 thousand dollars;

27 (3) "Agricultural production" has the same meaning as provided in
28 subdivision (63) of section 12-412;

29 (4) "Farm investment property" means machinery and equipment
30 that are acquired by purchase by an eligible farmer on or after January
31 1, 2026, and buildings and structural components of buildings that are
32 acquired, constructed, reconstructed or erected by an eligible farmer
33 and placed in service on or after January 1, 2026, and (A) are situated in
34 this state, (B) have a class life of more than four years, as described in
35 Section 168(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
36 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
37 from time to time, (C) are acquired by an eligible farmer from a person
38 other than a related person, (D) are not acquired to be leased, and are
39 not leased, to another person or persons during the twelve full months
40 following their acquisition or placement in service, and (E) will be held
41 and used in this state by the eligible farmer in the ordinary course of
42 agricultural production for not less than five full years following the

43 date of acquisition of such machinery and equipment or the date of
44 placement in service of such buildings;

45 (5) "Related person" means (A) a corporation, limited liability
46 company, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer,
47 (B) an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
48 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, (C) a corporation,
49 limited liability company, partnership, association or trust controlled by
50 an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
51 association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer, or (D) a member of
52 the same controlled group as the taxpayer; and

53 (6) "Control" means (A) with respect to a corporation, ownership,
54 directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty per cent or more of the
55 total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of such
56 corporation entitled to vote, or (B) with respect to a trust, ownership,
57 directly or indirectly, of fifty per cent or more of the beneficial interest
58 in the principal or income of such trust. The ownership (i) of stock in a
59 corporation, (ii) of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or
60 association, or (iii) of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined
61 in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock
62 provided in Section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
63 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
64 as amended from time to time, other than paragraph (3) of said section.

65 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established, within the
66 Department of Agriculture, a Dairy Farming Sustainability Working
67 Group to develop long-term support recommendations for the state's
68 dairy industry. Such recommendations shall include, but not be limited
69 to: (1) Potential use and efficacy of a reimbursable tax credit program
70 for dairy producers, (2) use of Community Investment Act funding for
71 dairy sustainability, (3) processing capacity within the state, (4) use and
72 efficacy of property tax exemptions for such farmers, including both
73 mandatory and optional local exemptions.

74 (b) Such working group shall consist of the following members: (1)

75 The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, (2)
76 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
77 designee, (3) the Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the
78 commissioner's designee, (4) the executive director of the Connecticut
79 Farm Bureau, or the executive director's designee, (5) not less than three
80 representatives of the dairy industry, as appointed by the Commissioner
81 of Agriculture, (6) one representative from each of the major dairy
82 cooperatives in the state, as appointed by the Commissioner of
83 Agriculture, (7) one independent dairy producer, as appointed by the
84 Commissioner of Agriculture, and (8) any additional members, as
85 deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

86 (c) On or before January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Agriculture
87 shall submit the recommendations of such working group to the joint
88 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
89 matters related to the environment, appropriations and finance, revenue
90 and bonding.

91 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions of the
92 general statutes, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
93 shall reinstate the land use values for forest land established in the
94 October 1, 2025, recommended values and best practices report. Such
95 values shall remain in effect until the next valuation date.

96 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Public Utilities Regulatory
97 Authority shall conduct a study of natural gas rates, including, but not
98 limited to, any applicable demand charges, for commercial and
99 agricultural natural gas customers who have intermittent peak monthly
100 demand to determine if a significant number of such customers are
101 charged rates that do not fairly reflect such customers' use due to such
102 demand charges. If the authority determines that such demand charges
103 have the effect of unfairly increasing rates for such customers, the
104 authority shall provide detailed recommendations concerning how such
105 charges may be recalculated or otherwise applied to such customers.
106 Not later than January 15, 2027, the authority shall submit a report, in
107 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,

108 that contains such recommendations to the joint standing committees of
109 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
110 and technology.

111 Sec. 6. Section 22-26gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
112 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

113 The commissioner shall, in consultation with the Farmland
114 Preservation Advisory Board established under section 22-26ll, adopt,
115 in accordance with chapter 54, such regulations as the commissioner
116 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 22-26aa to 22-
117 26nn, inclusive. [Such regulations shall provide that individual
118 landowners applying for such program shall be eligible to receive not
119 more than twenty thousand dollars per acre for development rights, and
120 the schedule of the state's contribution for joint ownership projects
121 initiated by municipalities shall be increased accordingly.]

122 Sec. 7. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 26-192e of the general statutes
123 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
124 *from passage*):

125 (b) The department shall [, by written order, promulgate] determine
126 definite bounds of the area or areas closed to shellfishing when
127 classified as conditional-closed, conditionally restricted, restricted or
128 prohibited. Such [order] determination shall become effective when (1)
129 [the closure classification is published in a newspaper having circulation
130 in towns, cities and boroughs in which or adjacent to which any such
131 area is situated; (2)] the classification is filed in writing or electronically
132 in the offices of the clerk and the director of health in each such town,
133 city or borough, [and (3)] (2) signs are posted at points on or near every
134 such classified area, and (3) notice of the closure is posted on the
135 department's Internet web site.

136 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
137 when the Commissioner of Agriculture, after consultation with the
138 Commissioner of Public Health, finds that tidal flats, shores or coastal

139 waters which may contain shellfish are so contaminated or polluted that
140 a health emergency exists, [he] the commissioner may close such area
141 for the duration of such emergency by giving notice of such emergency
142 closure [(1)] in writing to the municipal or district health authority [, and
143 (2) to the general public by publication in a newspaper having general
144 circulation in the town, city or borough within which such area lies] and
145 any applicable municipal shellfish commission. Such notice shall state
146 when the closing shall take effect.

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

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

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

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

159 (3) ["Certified vendor"] "Certified farmer" means an individual who
160 has met all CFM/WIC conditions as outlined by the department and
161 who is guaranteed payment on all [vouchers] benefits accepted,
162 provided compliance is maintained by that individual regarding all
163 CFM/WIC rules and procedures as outlined in the [vendor] farmer
164 certification handbook;

165 [(4) "Certified vendor identification stamp" means a department-
166 issued stamp that shall be utilized by the certified vendor during each
167 occurrence of voucher deposit in the financial institution of certified
168 vendor choice. This stamp shall remain the sole property of the
169 department and shall be forfeited by the certified vendor to the

170 department in the event of suspension;]

171 [(5) "Certified vendor identification sign"] (4) "Certified farmer
172 identification sign" means a department-issued sign which shall be
173 clearly displayed by the certified [vendor] farmer at all times when
174 accepting or intending to accept [vouchers] benefits in an authorized
175 [farmers' market] benefit location. Signs shall remain the sole property
176 of the department and shall be forfeited by the certified [vendor] farmer
177 to the department in the event of suspension;

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

181 [(7)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

182 [(8)] (6) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

183 [(9)] (7) "Designated distribution WIC clinic" means a site authorized
184 by the department for dispersal of [vouchers] benefits by the local WIC
185 agency;

186 [(10)] (8) "Distribution" means the process outlined by the
187 department and the means by which local WIC agencies actually
188 [dispense vouchers] distribute benefits to eligible participants;

189 [(11)] (9) "Farm products" means any fresh fruits, vegetables,
190 mushrooms, nuts, shell eggs, honey or other bee products, maple syrup
191 or maple sugar, flowers, nursery stock and other horticultural
192 commodities, livestock food products, including meat, milk, cheese and
193 other dairy products, food products of "aquaculture", as defined in
194 subsection (q) of section 1-1, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and
195 other molluscan shellfish taken from the waters of the state or tidal
196 wetlands, products from any tree, vine or plant and their flowers, or any
197 of the products listed in this subdivision that have been processed by
198 the participating farmer, including, but not limited to, baked goods
199 made with farm products;

200 [(12)] (10) "Farmers' market" means a cooperative or nonprofit
201 enterprise or association that consistently occupies a given site
202 throughout the season, which operates principally as a common
203 marketplace for a group of farmers, at least two of whom are selling
204 Connecticut-grown fresh produce, to sell Connecticut-grown farm
205 products directly to consumers, and where the products sold are
206 produced by the participating farmers with the sole intent and purpose
207 of generating a portion of household income;

208 [(13)] (11) "Fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have not
209 been processed in any manner and chicken eggs;

210 [(14)] (12) "CFM/WIC" means the Connecticut farmers' market
211 [supplemental food] nutrition program for women, infants and children
212 participants as administered by the department;

213 [(15)] (13) "Local WIC agency" means an entity that [administers local
214 health programs and which has entered into contract for voucher
215 distribution and related service with the department] contracts with the
216 Department of Public Health for the administration of the WIC program
217 and distributes benefits to eligible WIC participants;

218 [(16)] (14) "Connecticut-grown" means produce and other farm
219 products, [that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut] as
220 defined in section 22-38;

221 [(17)] (15) "Posted hours and days" means the operational time frames
222 stated in assurances submitted by a duly authorized representative of
223 an authorized [farmers' market] benefit location which includes a
224 beginning and an ending date for each year of operation;

225 [(18)] (16) "Participant" means a client of WIC who is at least one year
226 of age, who possesses one of the WIC classification codes selected for
227 inclusion by the Department of Public Health and who is an active
228 participant in a designated distribution clinic;

229 [(19)] (17) "Season" means a clearly delineated period of time during

230 a given year that has a beginning date and ending date, as specified by
231 the department, which correlates with a major portion of the harvest
232 period for Connecticut-grown fresh produce;

233 [(20)] (18) "Service area" means the geographic areas that encompass
234 all of the designated distribution clinics and authorized [farmers'
235 markets] benefit locations within Connecticut for a given season;

236 [(21)] (19) "USDA-FNS" means the United States Department of
237 Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Service;

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

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

251 [(24)] (22) "WIC" means the special supplemental food program for
252 women, infants and children, as administered by the Department of
253 Public Health.

254 Sec. 9. Section 22-6h of the general statutes is repealed and the
255 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

256 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' [Market/Women,]
257 Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children [Nutrition
258 Program] which [shall] may be jointly funded by the state of
259 Connecticut and the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States

260 Department of Agriculture. The program shall supply Connecticut-
261 grown fresh produce to participants of the [special supplemental food]
262 CFM/WIC program through the distribution of [vouchers] benefits that
263 are redeemable only at [designated Connecticut farmers' markets]
264 authorized benefit locations in Connecticut. The program is designed to
265 provide both a supplemental source of fresh produce for the dietary
266 needs of women, infants and children who are [judged] determined to
267 be at nutritional risk and to stimulate an increased demand for
268 Connecticut-grown fresh produce at authorized Connecticut [farmers'
269 markets] benefit locations.

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

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

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

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

283 [(1) Vouchers are distributed only to participants through verification
284 that the client name and number on the distribution registry provided
285 by the Department of Public Health correspond with the client name
286 and number printed on the WIC identification folder in the possession
287 of the participant.]

288 [(2)] (1) Each eligible participant is issued [five three-dollar vouchers
289 during each distribution as authorized by the department] a benefit
290 amount, determined annually, based on the federal and state allocation

291 for the given program year.

292 [(3) The voucher serial numbers issued to the participant correspond
293 to the number in the distribution registry in which the participant
294 signature is affixed.

295 (4) Each voucher issued and the distribution registry are properly
296 signed by the participant in the presence of local agency staff at the time
297 of distribution or, if a proxy is utilized, a written, electronic or verbal
298 communication is made by the participant or such proxy which
299 acknowledges receipt from the local agency staff at the time of
300 distribution.]

301 [(5)] (2) Any adult may act as a proxy provided the participant
302 designates such adult as [his or her] such adult's proxy in writing.

303 [(6)] (3) Each participant is provided a thorough explanation of
304 program guidelines and participant responsibility as outlined by the
305 department.

306 [(7)] (4) All CFM/WIC support materials are put into use as outlined
307 by the department.

308 [(8)] (5) Accurate and complete records of all related CFM/WIC
309 activities in the possession of a WIC local agency are maintained and
310 retained for a minimum of [four] three years. In the event of litigation,
311 negotiation, or audit findings, the records shall be retained until all
312 issues arising from such actions have been resolved or until the end of
313 the regular [four-year] three-year period, whichever is later.

314 [(9)] (6) All agency records pertaining to this program shall be made
315 available for inspection to representatives of USDA-FNS, the
316 Comptroller General of the United States, the state Auditors of Public
317 Accounts, the department, and the Department of Public Health as
318 necessary, at any time during normal business hours, and as frequently
319 as is deemed necessary for inspection and audit. Confidentiality of
320 personal information shall be maintained as to all program participants

321 at all times.

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

324 Participants shall be responsible for:

325 (1) [Qualifying under WIC program guidelines and attending]
326 Attending a designated distribution clinic during the relevant
327 distribution cycles when [vouchers are dispersed] benefits are
328 disbursed;

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

330 [(3)] (2) Using [vouchers] benefits only to purchase Connecticut-
331 grown fresh produce from certified [vendors] farmers who display
332 [CFM/WIC signs at authorized farmers' markets] a certified farmer
333 identification poster at authorized benefit locations;

334 [(4)] (3) Redeeming [vouchers] benefits on or before the expiration
335 date [printed on the face] of the [voucher] benefit or surrendering all
336 claim to the value of [vouchers] benefits that remain unredeemed;

337 [(5)] (4) Ensuring [vouchers] benefits that are received are not
338 assigned to any other party other than as provided by the [department]
339 program;

340 [(6)] (5) Reporting violations or problems to the department or the
341 local agency; and

342 [(7)] (6) Reporting all incidents of lost or stolen [vouchers] benefits to
343 the local agency.

344 Sec. 12. Section 22-6k of the general statutes is repealed and the
345 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

346 (a) Each authorized [farmers' market] benefit location shall maintain
347 records of operation which shall be provided to the department and

348 which shall include posted hours and days and shall be signed by a duly
349 authorized representative of the [farmers' market] benefit location.
350 [Farmers' market] Benefit location assurances shall be submitted in a
351 manner outlined by the department and shall provide evidence of:

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

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

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

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

364 (C) Season of operation; and

365 (D) Accessibility and consistency of [farmers' market] benefit
366 location.

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

372 [(c) In determining a farmers' market's authorization, the
373 commissioner shall consider the number of eligible applications
374 received by the department prior to the first of May which indicate the
375 intent to participate in the proposed farmers' market. The standard for
376 the authorization of a single or principal farmers' market in a county

377 shall be one eligible application for every one hundred participants who
378 participate in the distribution clinic in said county. A minimum of two
379 or more eligible applications shall be required for a farmers' market to
380 receive authorization.

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

384 Sec. 13. Section 22-6l of the general statutes is repealed and the
385 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

386 (a) [Vendor] Farmer certification shall not be in effect and [vouchers]
387 benefits shall not be accepted until receipt by the applicant of a certified
388 [vendor] farmer identification [stamp, a certified vendor identification
389 sign] poster and the applicant copy of the [department-vendor]
390 department-farmer agreement.

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

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

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

400 (3) [Demonstrates participation] Participates in training on
401 CFM/WIC rules and procedures through attendance in an entire
402 session of one of the scheduled training meetings conducted by
403 department staff [;] and completes an annual online learning module
404 and receives a passing score on a knowledge test; and

405 [(4) Submits a signed statement of receipts of a vendor certification

406 handbook;]

407 [(5)] (4) Submits a timely completed application and crop plan to the
408 department [prior to the deadline established by the department; and]
409 utilizing the application form and processes established by the
410 department.

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

413 Sec. 14. Section 22-6m of the general statutes is repealed and the
414 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

415 (a) A certified [vendor] farmer may accept [vouchers] benefits only
416 for a transaction that takes place at [a certified farmers' market] an
417 authorized benefit location and only in exchange for Connecticut-grown
418 fresh produce and may accept [vouchers] benefits as payment for
419 Connecticut-grown fresh produce only if presented [on or before the
420 usage expiration date printed on the face of the voucher] by an eligible
421 participant.

422 (b) A certified [vendor] farmer shall (1) prominently display a
423 certified [vendor identification sign] farmer identification poster as
424 outlined in the certified [vendor] farmer handbook, (2) provide
425 Connecticut-grown fresh produce and honey to participants upon
426 receipt of [a valid and properly completed voucher, which is signed by
427 the WIC client] benefits, (3) handle transactions with [WIC] participants
428 in the same manner as transactions with all other customers, (4) not
429 collect state or local taxes on purchases involving [vouchers] benefits,
430 (5) charge participants a price for Connecticut-grown fresh produce that
431 is equal to or less than the current price charged to nonparticipant
432 customers, (6) not levy a surcharge based on the use of [vouchers]
433 benefits by participants, (7) return no cash or issue credit in any form to
434 participants during sales transactions that involve [vouchers] benefits
435 only and in the event of a single transaction in which a participant
436 presents a combination of cash and [vouchers] benefits for the purchase

437 of Connecticut-grown fresh produce and honey, cash or credit up to the
438 value of the cash portion of the payment shall be given to the
439 participant, (8) participate in training as the department deems
440 necessary to carry out the intent of CFM/WIC, (9) cooperate with the
441 department in the evaluation of each season by completely and
442 accurately responding to a survey, with resubmission to the department
443 in a specified and timely manner, (10) immediately inform the
444 department in the event of loss, destruction [] or theft of [either the
445 certified vendor endorsement stamp or] a certified [vendor] farmer
446 identification [sign] poster so that a replacement may be issued, and (11)
447 comply with all procedures and rules as herein outlined and as
448 delineated in the [department-vendor] department-farmer agreement,
449 the certified [vendor] farmer handbook and official written notices of
450 clarification issued by the department to the [vendor] farmer.

451 Sec. 15. Section 22-6n of the general statutes is repealed and the
452 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

453 (a) [The commissioner shall return a voucher to a certified vendor
454 unpaid if the certified vendor identification number is not properly
455 affixed to the back of the voucher, the certified vendor does not endorse
456 the voucher or the participant's signature is missing on the face of the
457 voucher. A voucher] A transaction may be resubmitted for payment in
458 the event that the [signature or vendor certification identification] error
459 can be properly and legally corrected by the certified [vendor] farmer.
460 Violations of CFM/WIC procedures and rules applicable to a certified
461 [vendor] farmer shall be identified as Class I violations, Class II
462 violations and Class III violations. Violations involving the use of
463 multiple [vouchers] benefits in a single sales transaction shall be
464 considered as a single violation. Violations involving multiple sales
465 transactions, regardless of time elapsed, shall be considered multiple
466 violations at a standard of one violation per sales transaction.

467 (b) For Class I violations, the commissioner shall issue a warning
468 letter to the violating certified [vendor] farmer. Failure to appropriately
469 display the certified [vendor] farmer identification [sign] poster and

470 prices as specified in the signage requirements shall constitute a Class I
471 violation.

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

475 (1) Noncompliance with rules and procedures as outlined in the
476 [vendor] farmer certification handbook and in the [department-vendor]
477 department-farmer agreement which is not specifically identified as a
478 Class I violation;

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

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

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

487 (5) Abusive or discriminatory treatment of participants or CFM/WIC
488 staff;

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

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

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

496 (d) For Class III violations, the commissioner shall suspend the
497 violating [vendor] farmer from participation in CFM/WIC. The

498 following shall constitute Class III violations:

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

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

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

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

504 (e) The commissioner shall issue a written official notice of
505 noncompliance to the certified [vendor] farmer within seventy-two
506 hours of receipt of evidence involving an act of noncompliance.
507 Suspension of a certified [vendor] farmer from participation in
508 CFM/WIC shall remain in effect for the remainder of the season. An
509 exception shall occur when suspension occurs within thirty days of the
510 expiration date for [voucher] benefit usage by participants. In such case,
511 suspension shall also include the entire season of the following calendar
512 year. In the event of a suspension, the [vendor] farmer shall reimburse
513 the commissioner for the value of any [vouchers] benefits deposited and
514 paid upon after the official date of suspension notification. At the
515 conclusion of a suspension period, the [vendor] farmer may reapply for
516 certification in order to resume participation in CFM/WIC.

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

522 Sec. 16. Section 22-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the
523 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

524 A written notice of noncompliance or suspension from the
525 department shall be pending for seventy-two hours of receipt by the
526 certified [vendor] farmer. The certified [vendor] farmer shall be granted

527 the pending period for presenting sufficient evidence to the department
528 to substantiate a reversal. Remedies undertaken in response to receipt
529 of written notice of a pending citation of noncompliance or suspension
530 shall not constitute evidence in defense of such citation. Failure to
531 present any evidence to the department within the specified pending
532 period shall constitute acceptance of the citation of noncompliance or
533 suspension by the certified [vendor] farmer. Submission of insufficient
534 evidence by the certified [vendor] farmer for determination of reversal
535 on the pending citation by the department shall result in an official
536 citation of noncompliance or suspension upon completion of the
537 pending period.

538 Sec. 17. Section 22-6p of the general statutes is repealed and the
539 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

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

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

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

556 [(e)] (c) Deadlines for submission of records, reports, survey
557 instruments and undistributed [vouchers] benefits by local agencies

558 shall be established by the department and specified in the agreement
559 entered into with the local agency.

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

564 Sec. 18. Section 22-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the
565 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

566 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior
567 Nutrition Program which shall be provided for from funds available to
568 the commissioner and from other sources as such funds may become
569 available. The program shall supply Connecticut-grown fresh produce
570 and honey to senior participants through the distribution of [vouchers]
571 benefits that are redeemable only at designated Connecticut [farmers'
572 markets] benefit locations. For purposes of this section, a "senior
573 participant" is defined as a person who is sixty years of age or older and
574 is currently residing in elderly housing, or is a participant of a registered
575 congregate meal site, or has been identified by a municipal elderly agent
576 as being at nutritional risk. The program is designed to provide both a
577 supplemental source of fresh produce and honey for the dietary needs
578 of seniors who are [judged] determined to be at nutritional risk and to
579 stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-grown produce and
580 honey at Connecticut [farmers' markets] benefit locations. For purposes
581 of this section, "fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have
582 not been processed in any manner and chicken eggs.

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

585 Sec. 19. Section 22-26k of the general statutes is repealed and the
586 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

587 [(a)] There is established a farm transition grant program which shall
588 be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Matching grants

589 shall be made to farmers and agricultural cooperatives for
590 diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value added
591 agricultural production and sales, and developing farmers' markets and
592 other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

593 [(b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall adopt regulations, in
594 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the administration of
595 the program established by this section. Such regulations shall require
596 the development of business plans by applicants as part of the
597 application process.]

598 Sec. 20. Section 22-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the
599 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

600 No person shall use any words, titles or names designated by the
601 Commissioner of Agriculture, under the provisions of sections 22-27, 22-
602 28 and 22-29 [,] and subsection (b) of section 22-31, [and section 22-33,]
603 for use in grading or marketing of farm products, unless the products
604 which he is identifying, advertising, designating or describing thereby
605 fully meet the requirements of the official grade indicated by such
606 words, titles or names. If, in the opinion of the Commissioner of
607 Agriculture or his representative, any lot or lots of such products so
608 identified, advertised, designated or described are not of the grade
609 indicated, said commissioner shall cause inspections thereof to be made
610 by regularly appointed inspectors for the purpose of determining the
611 actual grade of such products. Any person, firm or corporation which
612 violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than fifty
613 dollars for the first offense and not more than two hundred dollars for
614 each subsequent offense.

615 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the 2026 supplement to
616 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
617 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

620 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)
621 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25,
622 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-
623 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of
624 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-
625 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of
626 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-
627 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-
628 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection
629 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section
630 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-
631 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,
632 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,
633 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of
634 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section
635 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,
636 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58
637 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,
638 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,
639 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,
640 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-
641 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b
642 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-
643 224, section 14-240 or 14-250, subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section
644 14-251, section 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269,
645 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of section 14-
646 275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277, section 14-
647 278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-283, section
648 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-289l, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-
649 298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326, 14-
650 330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section 15-
651 15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of
652 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15,
653 subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of
654 section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152,

655 subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of
656 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-
657 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b,
658 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224,
659 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338,
660 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-
661 153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or
662 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482,
663 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or
664 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100,
665 subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section
666 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25,
667 section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61,
668 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section
669 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159,
670 section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section
671 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section
672 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34, as
673 amended by this act, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, [22-54,] 22-
674 61j or 22-61l, subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l,
675 subsection (f) of section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of
676 section 22-61m, section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or
677 22-111o, subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c)
678 of section 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-
679 324a or 22-326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or
680 subsection (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b,
681 subsection (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-
682 359, 22-366, 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246,
683 subsection (a) of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of
684 section 22a-256h, section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of
685 section 22a-381e, section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45,
686 23-46 or 23-61b, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of
687 section 23-65, section 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43,
688 section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-
689 43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection

690 (d) of section 26-61, section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76,
691 section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89, 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-
692 107, 26-114a, 26-117, subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-
693 131, 26-132, 26-138, 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186,
694 section 26-207, 26-215, 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-
695 226, section 26-227, 26-230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-
696 276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-
697 292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13, 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or
698 29-156a, subsection (b), (d), (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-
699 161y or 29-161z, subdivision (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243
700 or 29-277, subsection (c) of section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318,
701 subsection (b) of section 29-335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a,
702 subsection (b) of section 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117,
703 section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11, 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23,
704 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36, 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b,
705 section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c)
706 of section 31-69, section 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-
707 134, subsection (i) of section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-
708 1017, 34-13d or 34-412, subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of
709 section 36a-57, subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-
710 739, 36a-787, 38a-2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278,
711 section 38a-479qq, 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713,
712 38a-733, 38a-764, 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-470 or
713 42-480, subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450,
714 45a-634 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-
715 59, 46a-81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53,
716 subsection (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of
717 section 47a-21, section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection
718 (j) of section 52-362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-
719 264, 53-280, 53-290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-
720 323 or 53-331, subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344,
721 subsection (b) or (c) of section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a,
722 section 53-377, 53-422 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2)
723 a violation under the provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any
724 regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions of section 12-484,

725 12-487 or 13b-410, or (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or
 726 bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of building codes,
 727 the health code or an ordinance described in subdivision (5) of this
 728 subsection, for which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not
 729 exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has
 730 established a payment and hearing procedure for such violation
 731 pursuant to section 7-152c, or (5) a violation of any ordinance adopted
 732 by a town, city or borough pursuant to section 14-224a, 14-390 or 14-
 733 390m for which the penalty does not exceed two thousand dollars,
 734 unless such town, city or borough has established a payment and
 735 hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section 7-152c, shall
 736 follow the procedures set forth in this section.

737 Sec. 22. Sections 22-33, 22-50 to 22-54, inclusive, and 26-206 of the
 738 general statutes are repealed. (*Effective from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage and applicable to income and taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2028</i>	12-217vv(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	22-26gg
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	26-192e(b) and (c)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-6g
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-6h
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-6i
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	22-6j
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	22-6k
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	22-6l
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	22-6m
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	22-6n
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	22-6o

Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	22-6p
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	22-6q
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	22-26k
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	22-34
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	51-164n(b)
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section