



Substitute House Bill No. 6385

Public Act No. 21-155

AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (13) of section 22-6g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

Sec. 2. Section 22-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior Nutrition Program which shall be provided for from funds available to the commissioner and from other sources as such funds may become available. The program shall supply Connecticut-grown fresh produce to senior participants through the distribution of vouchers that are redeemable only at designated Connecticut farmers' markets. For purposes of this section, a "senior participant" is defined as a person who is sixty years of age or older and is currently residing in elderly housing, or is a participant of a registered congregate meal site, or has been identified by a municipal elderly agent as being at nutritional risk. The

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program is designed to provide both a supplemental source of fresh produce for the dietary needs of seniors who are judged to be at nutritional risk and to stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-grown produce at Connecticut farmers' markets. For purposes of this section, "fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have not been processed in any manner and chicken eggs.

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

Sec. 3. Section 22-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) For purposes of this section, "farm products" means products resulting from the practice of agriculture or farming, as defined in section 1-1 and "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown" means produce and other farm products that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut.

(b) Only farm products grown or produced in Connecticut shall be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown". Farm products grown or produced in Connecticut may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local" or "Locally-Grown". Farm products grown or produced within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale for such farm products may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", or "Locally-Grown". Any person, firm, partnership or corporation advertising or labeling farm products as ["Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", "Locally-Grown", or] "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown" shall be required to furnish written proof within ten days of the sale of such products that such products were grown or produced in Connecticut or within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale, as applicable, if requested to do so by the Commissioner of Agriculture or said commissioner's designee. Any person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be fined not

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more than one hundred dollars for each product label in violation of this subsection.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, any person who sells any farm product as "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown" at a farmers' market in this state shall offer such product for sale in the immediate proximity of a sign that is: (1) Readily visible to consumers, (2) not less than three inches by five inches in size, and (3) in a form that is substantially as follows:

[THIS FARM PRODUCT IS] CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCT. [THIS FARM PRODUCT WAS GROWN OR PRODUCED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSON OR BUSINESS:] (INSERT THE NAME AND [ADDRESS OF PERSON OR BUSINESS] THE TOWN FOR THE FARM OF ORIGIN).

The lettering on any such sign shall be of a size, font or print that is clearly and easily legible. Such a sign shall accompany each type of farm product that any such person sells as "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown". Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall receive a warning for the first violation and for any subsequent violation shall be fined one hundred dollars for each violation.

Sec. 4. Section 22-39f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of sections 22-39a to 22-39e, inclusive, section 22-39g, any regulation adopted pursuant to subsection (h) of section 22-39g or who obstructs or hinders the Commissioner of Agriculture or the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection or any of their] commissioner's authorized agents in the performance of their duties under the provisions of said sections, shall be fined [not less than twenty-five dollars or more than] fifty dollars for the first offense and [not less than one hundred dollars or more than]

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two hundred dollars for each subsequent offense. In addition to such fine, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to deny, suspend or revoke [the] any license, permit, certificate or registration provided for in said sections issued to such person, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 5. Section 22-61j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

Any person who violates the provisions of sections 22-61c to 22-61f, inclusive, [shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor and] shall be fined one hundred dollars for the first offense and two hundred dollars for each subsequent offense.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) On and after July 1, 2021, any voucher issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to section 22-6p or 22-6q of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall have a value of not less than twenty dollars.

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

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

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

(1) Vouchers are distributed only to participants through verification that the client name and number on the distribution registry provided by the Department of Public Health correspond with the client name and number printed on the WIC identification folder in the possession

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of the participant.

(2) Each eligible participant is issued five three-dollar vouchers during each distribution as authorized by the department.

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

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

(5) [A proxy is not allowed to act on behalf of a participant, except in the case of a parent or legal guardian acting on behalf of a participant child or infant, or in the case of a husband acting on behalf of his wife.] Any adult may act as a proxy provided the participant designates such adult as his or her proxy in writing.

(6) Each participant is provided a thorough explanation of program guidelines and participant responsibility as outlined by the department.

(7) All CFM/WIC support materials are put into use as outlined by the department.

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

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

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

Participants shall be responsible for:

(1) Qualifying under WIC program guidelines and attending a designated distribution clinic during the relevant distribution cycles when vouchers are dispersed;

(2) Properly countersigning a voucher [at time of use in the presence of the certified vendor who is accepting each voucher in exchange for fresh produce] prior to use;

(3) Using vouchers only to purchase Connecticut-grown fresh produce from certified vendors who display CFM/WIC signs at authorized farmers' markets;

(4) Redeeming vouchers on or before the expiration date printed on the face of the voucher or surrendering all claim to the value of vouchers that remain unredeemed;

(5) Ensuring vouchers that are received are not assigned to any other party other than as provided by the department;

(6) Reporting violations or problems to the department or the local agency; and

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(7) Reporting all incidents of lost or stolen vouchers to the local agency.

Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 22-6l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) [Vendor certification shall expire at the end of each year of issuance.] Each vendor certification shall be valid for three years. The department shall not limit the number of vendors who may become certified under CFM/WIC. A vendor who satisfies all the following criteria shall be certified to accept vouchers:

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

(2) Indicates an intent to participate in one or more authorized farmers' markets;

(3) Demonstrates participation in training on CFM/WIC rules and procedures through attendance in an entire session of one of the scheduled training meetings conducted by department staff;

(4) Submits a signed statement of receipts of a vendor certification handbook;

(5) Submits a completed application and crop plan to the department prior to the deadline established by the department; and

(6) Submits completed and signed certified vendor agreements to the department.

Sec. 10. Section 22-26j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a farm viability matching grant program to any agricultural not-for-profit

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organization, municipality, group of municipalities, regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, or group of municipalities that have established a regional interlocal agreement pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339l, inclusive, to further agricultural viability. Such grants may be used for the following purposes: (1) Local capital projects that foster agricultural viability, including, but not limited to, processing facilities and farmers' markets; (2) the development and implementation of agriculturally friendly land use regulations and local farmland protection strategies that sustain and promote local agriculture; (3) the development of new marketing programs and venues through or in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state; [and] (4) the development and implementation of programs and services that promote farm and farmland access and transfer of such farms; and (5) the development of urban and nontraditional farming practices.

Sec. 11. Subsection (d) of section 4b-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) Notwithstanding any other statute or special act to the contrary, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall be the sole person authorized to represent the state in its dealings with third parties for the construction, development, acquisition or leasing of real estate for housing the offices or equipment of all agencies of the state or for the state-owned public buildings or realty, as provided for in sections 2-90, 4b-1 to 4b-5, inclusive, 4b-21, 4b-23, 4b-24, 4b-26, 4b-27, 4b-30 and 4b-32, subsection (c) of section 4b-66 and sections 4b-67 to 4b-69, inclusive, 4b-71, 4b-72, 10-95, 10a-72, 10a-89, 10a-90, 10a-114, 10a-130, 10a-144, 17b-655, [22-64,] 22a-324, 26-3, 27-45, 32-1c, 32-39, 48-9, 51-27d and 51-27f, except that (1) the Joint Committee on Legislative Management may represent the state in the planning and construction of the Legislative Office Building and related facilities, in Hartford; (2) the Chief Court

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Administrator may represent the state in providing for (A) space for the Court Support Services Division as part of a new or existing contract for an alternative incarceration program pursuant to section 54-103b or a program developed pursuant to section 46b-121k, or (B) other real estate needs of the Judicial Branch when delegated authority to do so by the Commissioner of Administrative Services; (3) the board of trustees of a constituent unit of the state system of higher education may represent the state in the leasing of real estate for housing the offices or equipment of such constituent unit, provided no lease payments for such realty are made with funds generated from the general revenues of the state; (4) the Labor Commissioner may represent the state in the leasing of premises required for employment security operations as provided in subsection (c) of section 31-250; (5) the Commissioner of Developmental Services may represent the state in the leasing of residential property as part of the program developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-218, provided such residential property does not exceed two thousand five hundred square feet, for the community placement of persons eligible to receive residential services from the department; (6) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services may represent the state in the leasing of residential units as part of a program developed pursuant to section 17a-455a, provided each such residential unit does not exceed two thousand five hundred square feet; and (7) the Connecticut Marketing Authority may represent the state in the leasing of land or markets under the control of the Connecticut Marketing Authority, and, except for the housing of offices or equipment in connection with the initial acquisition of an existing state mass transit system or the leasing of land by the Connecticut Marketing Authority for a term of one year or more in which cases the actions of the Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Marketing Authority shall be subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Review Board. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may establish and implement any procedures necessary for the commissioner to assume the commissioner's responsibilities as said sole

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bargaining agent for state realty acquisitions and shall perform the duties necessary to carry out such procedures. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may appoint, within the department's budget and subject to the provisions of chapter 67, such personnel deemed necessary by the commissioner to carry out the provisions of this section, including experts in real estate, construction operations, financing, banking, contracting, architecture and engineering. The Attorney General's office, at the request of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, shall assist the commissioner in contract negotiations regarding the purchase, lease or construction of real estate.

Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 51-344a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September 1, 1998: Sections 1-205, 1-206, 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-160, 4-164, 4-177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-369b, 10-153e, 12-208, 12-237, 12-268l, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448, 12-454, 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-586f, 12-597, 12-730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-67u, 14-110, 14-195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41, 16a-5, 17b-60, 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-123d, 19a-425, 19a-498, 19a-517, 19a-526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59, 20-73a, 20-86f, 20-99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-195p, 20-202, 20-206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-341f, 20-363, 20-373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, [22-64,] 22-228, 22-248, 22-254, 22-320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16, 22a-30, 22a-34, 22a-53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119, 22a-180, 22a-182a, 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-

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226c, 22a-227, 22a-250, 22a-255l, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-361a, 22a-374, 22a-376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-449g, 22a-459, 23-5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z, 29-323, 30-8, 31-109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-285, 31-339, 31-355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-494, 36a-587, 36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30, 36b-50, 36b-71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139, 38a-140, 38a-147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241, 38a-337, 38a-470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817, 38a-843, 38a-868, 38a-906, 38a-994, 42-103c, 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p, 42-182, 46a-56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-392d and 54-211a.

Sec. 13. Sections 22-62 to 22-73, inclusive, and sections 22-75 to 22-77, inclusive, and section 22-78a of the general statutes are repealed.
(Effective from passage)

Approved July 12, 2021