

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6385**

LCO No. 4083

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS TO CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (13) of section 22-6g of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2021*):

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

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 Section 22-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

19 produce for the dietary needs of seniors who are judged to be at
20 nutritional risk and to stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-
21 grown produce at Connecticut farmers' markets. For purposes of this
22 section, "fresh produce" means fruits and vegetables that have not been
23 processed in any manner and chicken eggs.

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

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 Section 22-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

33 (b) Only farm products grown or produced in Connecticut shall be
34 advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-
35 Grown". Farm products grown or produced in Connecticut may be
36 advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local"
37 or "Locally-Grown". Farm products grown or produced within a ten-
38 mile radius of the point of sale for such farm products may be advertised
39 or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", or "Locally-
40 Grown". Any person, firm, partnership or corporation advertising or
41 labeling farm products as ["Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", "Locally-
42 Grown", or] "Connecticut-Grown" or "CT-Grown" shall be required to
43 furnish written proof within ten days of the sale of such products that
44 such products were grown or produced in Connecticut or within a ten-
45 mile radius of the point of sale, as applicable, if requested to do so by
46 the Commissioner of Agriculture or said commissioner's designee. Any
47 person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be fined not
48 more than one hundred dollars for each product label in violation of this
49 subsection.

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

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

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

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

69 Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of sections 22-
70 39a to 22-39e, inclusive, section 22-39g, any regulation adopted pursuant
71 to subsection (h) of section 22-39g or who obstructs or hinders the
72 Commissioner of Agriculture or the [Commissioner of Consumer
73 Protection or any of their] commissioner's authorized agents in the
74 performance of their duties under the provisions of said sections, shall
75 be fined [not less than twenty-five dollars or more than] fifty dollars for
76 the first offense and [not less than one hundred dollars or more than]
77 two hundred dollars for each subsequent offense. In addition to such
78 fine, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to deny, suspend or
79 revoke [the] any license, permit certificate or registration provided for
80 in said sections issued to such person, in accordance with the provisions
81 of chapter 54.

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

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

88 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) On and after July 1, 2021, any
89 voucher issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to section
90 22-6p or 22-6q of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall have
91 a value of not less than twenty dollars.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140 Sec. 8. Section 22-6j of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

142 Participants shall be responsible for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

161 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 22-61 of the general statutes is repealed
162 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

167 (1) Agrees to maintain only Connecticut-grown fresh produce on

168 display in a certified vendor stall;

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

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

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

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

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

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

182 The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a farm
183 viability matching grant program to any agricultural not-for-profit
184 organization, municipality, group of municipalities, regional council of
185 governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-
186 124p, inclusive, or group of municipalities that have established a
187 regional interlocal agreement pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339l,
188 inclusive, to further agricultural viability. Such grants may be used for
189 the following purposes: (1) Local capital projects that foster agricultural
190 viability, including, but not limited to, processing facilities and farmers'
191 markets; (2) the development and implementation of agriculturally
192 friendly land use regulations and local farmland protection strategies
193 that sustain and promote local agriculture; (3) the development of new
194 marketing programs and venues through or in which a majority of
195 products sold are grown in the state; [and] (4) the development and
196 implementation of programs and services that promote farm and
197 farmland access and transfer of such farms; and (5) the development of

198 urban and nontraditional farming practices.

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

202 (d) Notwithstanding any other statute or special act to the contrary,
203 the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall be the sole person
204 authorized to represent the state in its dealings with third parties for the
205 construction, development, acquisition or leasing of real estate for
206 housing the offices or equipment of all agencies of the state or for the
207 state-owned public buildings or realty, as provided for in sections 2-90,
208 4b-1 to 4b-5, inclusive, 4b-21, 4b-23, 4b-24, 4b-26, 4b-27, 4b-30 and 4b-32,
209 subsection (c) of section 4b-66 and sections 4b-67 to 4b-69, inclusive, 4b-
210 71, 4b-72, 10-95, 10a-72, 10a-89, 10a-90, 10a-114, 10a-130, 10a-144, 17b-
211 655, [22-64,] 22a-324, 26-3, 27-45, 32-1c, 32-39, 48-9, 51-27d and 51-27f,
212 except that (1) the Joint Committee on Legislative Management may
213 represent the state in the planning and construction of the Legislative
214 Office Building and related facilities, in Hartford; (2) the Chief Court
215 Administrator may represent the state in providing for (A) space for the
216 Court Support Services Division as part of a new or existing contract for
217 an alternative incarceration program pursuant to section 54-103b or a
218 program developed pursuant to section 46b-121k, or (B) other real estate
219 needs of the Judicial Branch when delegated authority to do so by the
220 Commissioner of Administrative Services; (3) the board of trustees of a
221 constituent unit of the state system of higher education may represent
222 the state in the leasing of real estate for housing the offices or equipment
223 of such constituent unit, provided no lease payments for such realty are
224 made with funds generated from the general revenues of the state; (4)
225 the Labor Commissioner may represent the state in the leasing of
226 premises required for employment security operations as provided in
227 subsection (c) of section 31-250; (5) the Commissioner of Developmental
228 Services may represent the state in the leasing of residential property as
229 part of the program developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-
230 218, provided such residential property does not exceed two thousand

231 five hundred square feet, for the community placement of persons
232 eligible to receive residential services from the department; (6) the
233 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services may represent
234 the state in the leasing of residential units as part of a program
235 developed pursuant to section 17a-455a, provided each such residential
236 unit does not exceed two thousand five hundred square feet; and (7) the
237 Connecticut Marketing Authority may represent the state in the leasing
238 of land or markets under the control of the Connecticut Marketing
239 Authority, and, except for the housing of offices or equipment in
240 connection with the initial acquisition of an existing state mass transit
241 system or the leasing of land by the Connecticut Marketing Authority
242 for a term of one year or more in which cases the actions of the
243 Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Marketing
244 Authority shall be subject to the review and approval of the State
245 Properties Review Board. The Commissioner of Administrative Services
246 may establish and implement any procedures necessary for the
247 commissioner to assume the commissioner's responsibilities as said sole
248 bargaining agent for state realty acquisitions and shall perform the
249 duties necessary to carry out such procedures. The Commissioner of
250 Administrative Services may appoint, within the department's budget
251 and subject to the provisions of chapter 67, such personnel deemed
252 necessary by the commissioner to carry out the provisions of this
253 section, including experts in real estate, construction operations,
254 financing, banking, contracting, architecture and engineering. The
255 Attorney General's office, at the request of the Commissioner of
256 Administrative Services, shall assist the commissioner in contract
257 negotiations regarding the purchase, lease or construction of real estate.

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

261 (a) Whenever the term "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain" or
262 "judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford" is used or referred
263 to in the following sections of the general statutes, it shall be deemed to

264 mean or refer to the judicial district of Hartford on and after September
265 1, 1998: Sections 1-205, 1-206, 2-48, 3-21a, 3-62d, 3-70a, 3-71a, 4-61, 4-160,
266 4-164, 4-177b, 4-180, 4-183, 4-197, 5-202, 5-276a, 8-30g, 9-7a, 9-7b, 9-369b,
267 10-153e, 12-208, 12-237, 12-268l, 12-312, 12-330m, 12-405k, 12-422, 12-448,
268 12-454, 12-456, 12-463, 12-489, 12-522, 12-554, 12-565, 12-572, 12-586f, 12-
269 597, 12-730, 13b-34, 13b-235, 13b-315, 13b-375, 14-57, 14-66, 14-67u, 14-
270 110, 14-195, 14-311, 14-311c, 14-324, 14-331, 15-125, 15-126, 16-41, 16a-5,
271 17b-60, 17b-100, 17b-238, 17b-531, 19a-85, 19a-86, 19a-123d, 19a-425, 19a-
272 498, 19a-517, 19a-526, 19a-633, 20-12f, 20-13e, 20-29, 20-40, 20-45, 20-59,
273 20-73a, 20-86f, 20-99, 20-114, 20-133, 20-154, 20-156, 20-162p, 20-192, 20-
274 195p, 20-202, 20-206c, 20-227, 20-238, 20-247, 20-263, 20-271, 20-307, 20-
275 341f, 20-363, 20-373, 20-404, 20-414, 21a-55, 21a-190i, 22-7, [22-64,] 22-228,
276 22-248, 22-254, 22-320d, 22-326a, 22-344b, 22-386, 22a-6b, 22a-7, 22a-16,
277 22a-30, 22a-34, 22a-53, 22a-60, 22a-62, 22a-63, 22a-66h, 22a-106a, 22a-119,
278 22a-180, 22a-182a, 22a-184, 22a-220a, 22a-220d, 22a-225, 22a-226, 22a-
279 226c, 22a-227, 22a-250, 22a-255l, 22a-276, 22a-310, 22a-342a, 22a-344, 22a-
280 361a, 22a-374, 22a-376, 22a-408, 22a-430, 22a-432, 22a-438, 22a-449f, 22a-
281 449g, 22a-459, 23-5e, 23-65m, 25-32e, 25-36, 28-5, 29-143j, 29-158, 29-161z,
282 29-323, 30-8, 31-109, 31-249b, 31-266, 31-266a, 31-270, 31-273, 31-284, 31-
283 285, 31-339, 31-355a, 31-379, 35-3c, 35-42, 36a-186, 36a-187, 36a-471a, 36a-
284 494, 36a-587, 36a-647, 36a-684, 36a-718, 36a-807, 36b-26, 36b-27, 36b-30,
285 36b-50, 36b-71, 36b-72, 36b-74, 36b-76, 38a-41, 38a-52, 38a-134, 38a-139,
286 38a-140, 38a-147, 38a-150, 38a-185, 38a-209, 38a-225, 38a-226b, 38a-241,
287 38a-337, 38a-470, 38a-620, 38a-657, 38a-687, 38a-774, 38a-776, 38a-817,
288 38a-843, 38a-868, 38a-906, 38a-994, 42-103c, 42-110d, 42-110k, 42-110p,
289 42-182, 46a-56, 46a-100, 47a-21, 49-73, 51-44a, 51-81b, 51-194, 52-146j, 53-
290 392d and 54-211a.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-6g(13)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-6q
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-38
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-39f
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-61j
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-6i
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-6j
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-61(b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-26j
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	4b-3(d)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	51-344a(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section