



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 274

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6726

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK AND CERTAIN RABBIT PROCESSING FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-278 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [For the purposes of this chapter "livestock" is defined as any camelid
4 or hooved animal raised for domestic or commercial use. The
5 Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized, subject to sections 4-168 to
6 4-174, inclusive, to make orders and regulations concerning the
7 importation, transportation, trailing, riding, driving, exhibiting,
8 examining, testing, identification, quarantining or disposing of livestock
9 to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among
10 livestock and to protect the public from such diseases as may be
11 transmissible to human beings, either directly or through the products
12 of such animals, and orders and regulations for the conservation of
13 livestock the products from which are used for food or clothing. The
14 commissioner shall give notice of any such order to any person named

15 therein by leaving a copy of such order with, or at the last-known place
16 of abode of, such person, if a resident of the state; if not a resident of the
17 state, by leaving a copy with, or at the last-known place of abode of, an
18 agent of such person, or the person having custody of the animals
19 described in such order, if within the state, or by forwarding a copy of
20 such order by registered or certified mail addressed to the last-known
21 address of the person named therein. The commissioner, in case of
22 emergency, may give notice of any regulation limiting or prohibiting the
23 importation, transportation, trailing, riding, driving, exhibiting or
24 disposing of livestock on any highway by publishing a copy of such
25 regulation in a newspaper published or having a substantial circulation
26 in the town in which the highway affected by such regulation may be
27 located. The commissioner shall give notice of any such order or
28 regulation to any common carrier named therein or affected thereby by
29 leaving a copy of such order or regulation with the president, secretary
30 or treasurer of the company acting as common carrier, or by leaving a
31 copy with any person or firm acting as a common carrier, or at the last-
32 known residence of any such person or a member of such firm in charge
33 of any office of such carrier. The commissioner is authorized to employ
34 assistants needed to enforce any such order or regulation. Any person
35 or any officer or agent of any corporation who violates any provision of
36 any such order or regulation, or who obstructs or attempts to obstruct
37 the commissioner or any assistant engaged in the discharge of any duty
38 hereunder, may be fined not more than one hundred dollars or may be
39 assessed an administrative civil penalty in accordance with section 22-
40 7.] For the purposes of this chapter and sections 15 to 20, inclusive, of
41 this act:

42 (1) "Accredited veterinarian" means a veterinarian who is approved
43 under Category II of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program by
44 the United States Department of Agriculture and by the state animal
45 health official of the state in which such veterinarian is licensed to
46 practice;

47 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture or the
48 commissioner's designated agent including the State Veterinarian;

49 (3) "Certificate of veterinary inspection" or "health certificate" means
50 an official document on a form approved by the state animal health
51 official in the state of origin or by the United States Department of
52 Agriculture that is used for verification of veterinary inspection and is
53 issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian at the point of origin
54 for a shipment of livestock;

55 (4) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

56 (5) "Livestock" means any camelid or hooved animal raised for
57 domestic or commercial use, generally used to produce food or fiber and
58 considered to be farm animals;

59 (6) "Notifiable disease" means a disease of livestock or poultry
60 published in the United States Department of Agriculture's National
61 List of Reportable Animal Diseases;

62 (7) "Official identification" means a numbering system approved by
63 the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian
64 for the official identification of individual animals that provides a
65 nationally unique identification number for each animal and prescribes
66 the animal identification methods and devices approved for use in each
67 species of livestock and that is affixed to each animal by tag or other
68 United States Department of Agriculture approved method;

69 (8) "Owner-shipper statement" means a form issued by the state
70 animal health agency in the state of origin that contains a statement
71 certifying that the animals are being transported for purposes stipulated
72 on such form in accordance with Title 9 of the Code of Federal
73 Regulations, and that is signed by the owner or shipper of the livestock;

74 (9) "Poultry" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-324; and

75 (10) "USDA" means the United States Department of Agriculture.

76 Sec. 2. Section 22-279 of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

78 (a) The [Commissioner of Agriculture or his deputy or authorized
79 agents] commissioner may quarantine all animals that [they have] the
80 commissioner has reasonable grounds to believe (1) are infected with a
81 communicable disease, (2) do not meet import, export or disease testing
82 requirements of the department, or (3) are kept under unsanitary
83 conditions [which] that, in the opinion of the commissioner, [or his
84 deputy or authorized agents,] endanger the public health or the health
85 of such animals. The quarantine may (A) prohibit or regulate the sale or
86 movement of such quarantined animals, including any mortalities, and
87 all the products of such quarantined animals, and (B) require that such
88 animals, including any mortalities, and the products of such animals be
89 confined in a place designated by the commissioner [or his deputy or
90 authorized agents,] for such time as the commissioner judges necessary.

91 [(b) Any person who violates any provision of any quarantine
92 imposed under this section shall be fined five hundred dollars for each
93 day during which such violation continues, up to a maximum fine of
94 twenty-five thousand dollars.]

95 (b) (1) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
96 the provisions of chapter 54, and make orders concerning the
97 importation, transportation, trailing, riding, driving, exhibiting,
98 examining, testing, identification, quarantining or disposing of livestock
99 to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among
100 livestock and to protect the public from such diseases as may be
101 transmissible to human beings, either directly or through the products
102 of such animals. Such orders and regulations may provide for the
103 conservation of livestock that is produced for use as food or clothing.

104 (2) The commissioner shall give notice of any such order to any
105 person named therein by leaving a copy of such order with, or at the
106 last-known place of abode of, such person, if a resident of the state. If
107 such person is not a resident of the state, such notice shall be provided
108 by leaving a copy of such order with, or at the last-known place of abode
109 of, an agent of such person, or the person that has custody of the animals
110 described in such order, if such person or agent is located in the state. If

111 such agent or person that has custody of such animals is not located in
112 the state, the commissioner shall cause a copy of such order to be sent
113 by registered or certified mail to the last-known address of the person
114 named in such order or, alternatively, by electronic notice if previously
115 consented to by the person named in such order.

116 (3) The commissioner, in the instance of an emergency, as determined
117 by the commissioner, may give notice of any order limiting or
118 prohibiting the importation, transportation, trailing, riding, driving,
119 exhibiting or disposing of livestock on any highway by publishing a
120 copy of such order in a newspaper that is published or that has a
121 substantial circulation in the town in which the highway affected by
122 such order is located.

123 (4) The commissioner shall give notice of any such order or regulation
124 to any common carrier named in such order or affected by such order
125 or regulation by leaving a copy of such order or regulation: (A) With the
126 president, secretary or treasurer of the company that acts as such
127 common carrier, (B) any person or firm acting as a common carrier, (C)
128 at the last-known residence of any such person or a member of such firm
129 in charge of any office of such carrier, or (D) at the electronic mail
130 address of the common carrier if previously consented to by the
131 common carrier.

132 (5) The commissioner may employ assistants needed to enforce any
133 such orders or regulations.

134 (6) Any person including, but not limited to, any officer or agent of
135 any corporation, who violates the provisions of: (A) This section, or (B)
136 any order or regulation authorized by this section, or who obstructs or
137 attempts to obstruct the commissioner, or any assistant of the
138 commissioner, while engaged in the discharge of any duty undertaken
139 pursuant to this section may be fined not more than five hundred
140 dollars, per day per animal, for each day during which such violation
141 continues, up to a maximum fine of twenty-five thousand dollars.

142 Sec. 3. Section 22-279a of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

144 Any livestock animal or poultry [being] that is tested for any disease
145 in accordance with the Uniform Methods and Rules of the United States
146 Department of Agriculture or for any biological or chemical residue
147 known to be in this state shall be quarantined on the premises where the
148 test is made until the test results are available and the test chart is signed
149 by a licensed accredited veterinarian or an employee of the Department
150 of Agriculture administering the test, provided the commissioner may
151 release such livestock animal or poultry from quarantine at any time.
152 Any blood, tissue or milk sample taken from any livestock animal or
153 poultry pursuant to this section shall be submitted for analysis to a
154 laboratory approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The
155 laboratory shall report the results of the test to the commissioner who
156 shall notify the person administering the test of such results.

157 Sec. 4. Section 22-287 of the general statutes is repealed and the
158 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

159 [(a) The Commissioner of Agriculture may cause all neat cattle and
160 all goats in the state to be tuberculin tested by a licensed accredited
161 veterinarian at the expense of the state or by a veterinarian employed by
162 the United States Department of Agriculture or by a veterinarian
163 employed by the Department of Agriculture. The owner of any such
164 herd to be so tested shall provide assistance and proper restraint for
165 confining the animals for and during the application of said tests. When
166 said commissioner has determined the condition of such animals by
167 physical examination and tuberculin test performed by said
168 veterinarians, each animal reacting to such test shall be immediately
169 segregated from the animals not reacting to such test by the owner
170 thereof and each animal reacting to such test shall be appraised as
171 provided in section 22-288 and shall be disposed of and the premises
172 upon which such animal has been kept shall be cleaned and disinfected
173 within fifteen days thereafter, subject to the approval of the
174 commissioner or his deputy or any authorized agent of the
175 commissioner. No animals shall be added to the herd until such

176 premises have been so cleaned and disinfected and inspected and
177 approved by the commissioner or his deputy or any authorized agent of
178 the commissioner. Any animal reacting to such test which has been
179 disposed of as provided by this section shall be paid for by the
180 Comptroller, provided funds shall be available for such purposes and
181 provided the animal reacting to such test and disposed of shall have
182 been approved by said commissioner as a proper addition to the herd.

183 (b) Surveillance tests may be performed by a technician trained by
184 and under the supervision of the State Veterinarian and employed by
185 the Department of Agriculture, provided no condemnation shall be
186 made on the basis of such surveillance tests. The owner of any herd to
187 be so tested shall provide assistance and proper restraint for confining
188 the animals for and during the application of such tests.]

189 (a) At the expense of the state, the commissioner may require and
190 provide for the testing and the control of tuberculosis in livestock in this
191 state. Any condemnation of livestock infected with tuberculosis shall
192 comply with the provisions of section 22-288, as amended by this act.
193 The procedures for testing for tuberculosis and the control and
194 disposition of livestock classified as reactors shall conform to one of the
195 following: (1) For goats, cattle, bison and captive cervids, the
196 procedures, methods, testing and the disposition of reactors shall
197 conform to the USDA Uniform Methods and Rules for Bovine
198 Tuberculosis Eradication; (2) for species of livestock other than goats,
199 cattle, bison or captive cervids, the procedures, methods, testing and the
200 disposition of reactors shall be determined by the State Veterinarian; or
201 (3) the most recent USDA approved and published procedures for
202 testing for tuberculosis and the control and disposition of Brucellosis
203 positive livestock.

204 (b) The state shall not be liable for any damage incurred or alleged to
205 have been incurred by any such test performed pursuant to this section.

206 (c) Official testing for tuberculosis shall be restricted to the State
207 Veterinarian, veterinarians employed by the federal government and
208 accredited veterinarians licensed to practice in this state. Surveillance

209 tests may be performed by an employee of the department trained by
210 and under the supervision of the State Veterinarian, provided no
211 condemnation shall be made on the basis of such surveillance tests. The
212 owner of any herd to be so tested shall provide assistance and proper
213 restraint for confining the animals for such testing and during the
214 application of such tests.

215 Sec. 5. Section 22-288 of the general statutes is repealed and the
216 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

217 (a) The [Commissioner of Agriculture] commissioner may cause any
218 [domestic animal which has given a positive reaction to the tuberculin
219 test to be killed,] livestock infected with an infectious or contagious
220 disease, including, but not limited to, tuberculosis, anthrax or foot and
221 mouth disease to be euthanized to protect the public health or prevent
222 the spread of such disease but no such [bovine animal] livestock shall
223 be [killed] euthanized until its value has been determined by the [owner
224 and the] commissioner. [If they are unable to agree upon the value of
225 such animal, each shall choose an arbitrator and the two so chosen shall
226 choose a third and the three so chosen, or a majority of the three so
227 chosen, shall determine the value of such animal, and the value so
228 determined shall be approved by the commissioner.] In determining the
229 value of condemned livestock, the commissioner shall consider the age,
230 sex, grade and purpose for which such animal was kept. The
231 commissioner may consult with livestock dealers, commission sales
232 stables or other sources familiar with the value of livestock in
233 determining the value of condemned animals. When a certificate has
234 been filed with the commissioner that such animal has been [killed]
235 euthanized and the premises disinfected according to the order of the
236 commissioner, within a period of [fifteen days] time specified by the
237 commissioner, following the issuance of such order, the amount
238 determined under [subsection (b) of] this section shall be paid to the
239 owner by the state. [If a majority of the three arbitrators do not agree,
240 they shall so find and report and the commissioner shall then determine
241 the value of such animal or animals, which shall be final; but no] No
242 animal, the physical condition of which is such that it is of no real value,

243 and no animal which has been in the state for a period of less than three
244 months next preceding its quarantine shall be paid for by the state [;
245 provided such award may be paid in the case of cattle from any herd
246 which has been officially accredited, or from an officially declared
247 modified accredited area, or from any herd the entire number of which
248 has passed two negative tests and such cattle have not, since passing
249 such tests, been exposed to infection from tuberculosis. The provisions
250 of this section shall not apply to animals condemned to prevent the
251 spread of foot and mouth disease or anthrax] unless such animal was a
252 natural addition to the herd that was born in this state or was imported
253 into this state in compliance with this chapter.

254 (b) [The state shall appraise any condemned registered purebred
255 bovine animal for a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars and any
256 grade bovine animal for a sum not exceeding eleven hundred dollars.]
257 The amount paid by the state for any [bovine animal which] livestock
258 that is condemned pursuant to this section and sold for slaughter, shall
259 be deposited by the commissioner [in] into the General Fund. The
260 amount paid by the state to the owner of any such animal shall be
261 limited to the difference between the fair market value of such animal,
262 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and the amount of
263 any indemnity or payment for such animal received by the owner from
264 the federal government. No compensation shall be paid to the owner of
265 any such [domestic animal] livestock by the state unless such animal has
266 been destroyed to prevent the spread of an infectious or contagious
267 disease or to protect the public health. Any animal [which has reacted
268 to the tuberculin test] that is condemned shall be [tagged in the left ear
269 by the person making such test with a numbered metal ear tag, which
270 tag shall have stamped or impressed thereon the following: "Ct.
271 Reacted, Number (...)", including the number of such tag. Such tags
272 shall be furnished by said commissioner and shall be numbered
273 consecutively beginning with the number one, and such animal shall
274 also be branded at the time of the test with the letter "T" on the left jaw]
275 identified with a tag, brand device or marking approved by the
276 commissioner. No such animal shall be [killed] moved, euthanized, sold
277 or used for food, except under the direction of [said] the commissioner.

278 (c) Any person aggrieved by an order of the commissioner to
279 condemn livestock pursuant to this section may appeal such order to the
280 superior court for the judicial district of Hartford not later than seven
281 days after issuance of such order.

282 Sec. 6. Section 22-288a of the general statutes is repealed and the
283 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

284 If the [Commissioner of Agriculture] commissioner finds the
285 presence of tuberculosis or brucellosis recurring in one herd of livestock
286 within any two-year period, or if [he] the commissioner finds any herd
287 of [cattle] livestock substantially infected with tuberculosis, [or]
288 brucellosis or other infectious or contagious disease, [he] the
289 commissioner may order the condemnation of such herd to prevent the
290 spread of such disease or to protect the public health and compensation
291 therefor shall be paid in accordance with section 22-288, as amended by
292 this act. [Said] Such compensation shall not be paid, nor shall the herd
293 be restocked, until the premises from which such herd was taken have
294 been cleaned and disinfected, and such premises have been inspected
295 and approved by the commissioner. [or his deputy or any authorized
296 agent of the commissioner.] Any person aggrieved by an order of the
297 commissioner to so condemn a herd may, [within] not later than seven
298 days after such order, appeal therefrom in accordance with the
299 provisions of section 4-183.

300 Sec. 7. Section 22-294 of the general statutes is repealed and the
301 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

302 The owner of any herd of livestock shall house, feed and care for such
303 herd under such sanitary conditions as shall promote the health and
304 welfare of such herd. No calf shall be fed milk or any other dairy product
305 except such milk or other product [as has been] that is produced by a
306 herd that [has been tuberculin tested] is negative for tuberculosis, or
307 such milk or other dairy product [as has been] that is pasteurized by
308 being maintained at a heat of one hundred forty-two degrees Fahrenheit
309 for a period of thirty minutes.

310 Sec. 8. Section 22-295 of the general statutes is repealed and the
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

312 The owner of any herd of livestock shall keep a record [which shall
313 include a description] of each [registered or graded] animal in such herd
314 [and] including the final disposition of such animal that is made by such
315 owner. [which such owner makes of any animal of such herd.] Each such
316 animal shall be marked [by a tag or other marking approved by the
317 Commissioner of Agriculture] with official identification when such
318 animal leaves the premises and such official identification shall be made
319 part of such record. Such record shall be kept for the life of the animal
320 plus one additional year.

321 Sec. 9. Section 22-296 of the general statutes is repealed and the
322 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

323 When infection [of tuberculosis] with any disease listed as reportable
324 or notifiable by the department or the USDA is found in any herd of
325 [cattle or goats] livestock, the [remaining] animals in such herd shall be
326 quarantined. [until such herd has passed three successive negative tests,
327 at least sixty days to elapse between each two tests.] Such quarantine
328 shall remain in effect until such time as the State Veterinarian
329 determines the quarantine should be removed. No animals shall be
330 removed from such herd while under quarantine, except under a
331 written permit issued to the owner of the herd by the [Commissioner of
332 Agriculture or his agents] commissioner to move directly from the
333 quarantined premises to [immediate slaughter] another premises for the
334 purpose and under the conditions specified in such permit. Such permit
335 shall accompany such animals from the quarantined premises. [to the
336 point where slaughter is to be effected.] The owner shall deliver such
337 permit to any person [purchasing] receiving such animals, and such
338 person shall exercise all reasonable diligence in determining that such
339 permit is [received by him and is valid, and that such permit shall
340 accompany such animals to slaughter] valid.

341 Sec. 10. Section 22-298 of the general statutes is repealed and the
342 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

343 [(a) The Commissioner of Agriculture may require and provide for
344 the drawing and collecting of blood samples for the control of
345 brucellosis from goats over three months of age and herds of bovine
346 animals, including male bovine animals, six months of age or over, but
347 not including steers, and may at his discretion decide not to test heifers
348 which have been officially calfhood vaccinated, until they have calved
349 or are eighteen months of age. All blood samples shall be submitted to
350 a laboratory approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and all milk
351 samples shall be submitted to a laboratory approved by said
352 commissioner for examination and the results of such tests shall be
353 reported by the laboratories to the commissioner in a manner prescribed
354 by him. Upon receipt of the laboratory reports on any such tests, the
355 commissioner shall inform the owner or agent and the veterinarian of
356 the result thereof. When the commissioner has determined the condition
357 of such herd by such tests, all animals reacting positively to any test for
358 brucellosis shall be identified by branding with a hot iron on the left jaw
359 and a metal number reactor tag in the left ear as approved by the
360 commissioner. All such reactors shall be appraised, branded, tagged
361 and slaughtered within fifteen days and the premises cleaned,
362 disinfected and approved within thirty days after slaughter in order to
363 qualify for indemnity under section 22-307. If the reaction of any animal
364 to a test for brucellosis is suspicious, it may be identified and
365 quarantined and shall not be disposed of without first obtaining written
366 permission from the commissioner.

367 (b) The state shall not be liable for any damage incurred or alleged to
368 have been incurred by any such test.

369 (c) No swine or goats used for breeding purposes shall be kept on the
370 same premises as cattle unless such swine or goats are certified free from
371 brucellosis. Any positive reactors shall be immediately slaughtered and
372 the premises cleaned and disinfected.

373 (d) The drawing of blood samples for brucellosis tests shall be
374 restricted to the State Veterinarian, veterinarians employed by the
375 Department of Agriculture, veterinarians employed by the federal

376 government and veterinarians licensed to practice in this state and
377 assigned by the commissioner for that purpose.]

378 (a) The commissioner may require and provide for the drawing and
379 collecting of samples for testing and the control of brucellosis in
380 livestock in this state. All blood and milk samples shall be submitted to
381 a laboratory approved by the commissioner and the results of such tests
382 shall be reported by the laboratories to the commissioner in a manner
383 prescribed by the commissioner. Upon receipt of the laboratory reports
384 on any such tests, the commissioner shall inform the owner or agent of
385 any corporation and the applicable veterinarian of the results. Any
386 condemnation of livestock infected with brucellosis shall comply with
387 section 22-288, as amended by this act. The procedures for testing for
388 brucellosis and the control and disposition of livestock infected with
389 brucellosis shall conform to one of the following: (1) For cattle and bison,
390 the procedures, methods, testing and disposition shall conform to the
391 USDA uniform methods and rules for brucellosis eradication in cattle
392 and bison; (2) for swine, the procedures, methods, testing and
393 disposition of shall conform to the USDA uniform methods and rules
394 for brucellosis eradication in swine; (3) for cervidae, the procedures,
395 methods, testing and disposition of shall conform to the USDA uniform
396 methods and rules for brucellosis eradication in cervidae; (4) for species
397 other than cattle, bison, swine or cervidae, the procedures, methods,
398 testing and disposition for brucellosis shall be determined by the State
399 Veterinarian; or (5) the most recent USDA approved and published
400 brucellosis procedures for testing and the control and disposition of
401 brucellosis positive livestock.

402 (b) The state shall not be liable for any damage incurred or alleged to
403 have been incurred by any such test performed pursuant to this section.

404 (c) No swine or goats used for breeding purposes shall be kept on the
405 same premises as cattle unless such swine or goats are certified free from
406 brucellosis.

407 (d) The drawing of samples for brucellosis tests shall be restricted to
408 the State Veterinarian, veterinarians and trained employees of the

409 department, veterinarians employed by the federal government and
410 accredited veterinarians licensed to practice in this state.

411 Sec. 11. Section 22-301 of the general statutes is repealed and the
412 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

413 No milk may be offered for sale in Connecticut unless produced from
414 herds complying with sections 22-287 and 22-298, as amended by this
415 act. [22-299a, 22-303, 22-304, 22-306 and 22-307 and this section. Before a
416 permit may be issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture for the sale
417 of milk, information must be available from the state Department of
418 Agriculture or from the livestock official of the state where milk is
419 produced that such herd producing milk for sale has reacted negatively
420 to tests which meet Connecticut specifications for the control of
421 tuberculosis and brucellosis.] For each new milk producer registered
422 pursuant to section 22-172 or 22-173a, if such herd or any animals in
423 such herd does not have a current tuberculosis and brucellosis negative
424 test result, such herd shall be tested and found negative to a tuberculosis
425 and brucellosis test prior to the issuance of the registration to produce
426 milk. Such tuberculosis and brucellosis test may be conducted by
427 employees of the department. Every two years thereafter, each
428 registered milk producing herd shall be surveillance tested for
429 tuberculosis and brucellosis by the department.

430 Sec. 12. Section 22-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
431 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

432 (a) Each owner of bovine animals in this state may have all of [his]
433 such owner's female calves vaccinated for the control of brucellosis at
434 ages [the commissioner shall establish by regulation] established
435 pursuant to the uniform methods and rules for brucellosis eradication
436 of the United States Department of Agriculture. [Animal and Plant
437 Health Inspection Service.] Calves may be vaccinated at the owner's
438 expense by [an approved] a licensed accredited veterinarian. [, an
439 approved federal or state full-time employed veterinarian assigned
440 directly and authorized by the Commissioner of Agriculture or by a
441 livestock inspector employed and authorized by the commissioner.]

442 (b) The state shall not be liable for any damages incurred or alleged
443 to have been incurred by the use of any vaccine.

444 (c) No person, firm or corporation, and no agent or employee of any
445 corporation, shall [have in his possession] possess any brucellosis
446 vaccine or any product containing any Brucella organisms unless
447 written permission has been obtained from the commissioner.

448 (d) No female bovine animal over the maximum vaccination age, as
449 established by the commissioner in accordance with the uniform
450 methods and rules for brucellosis eradication of the United States
451 Department of Agriculture, [Animal and Plant Health Inspection
452 Service,] shall be vaccinated with Brucella Abortus vaccine. Brucellosis
453 vaccine or any product containing any Brucella organisms shall not be
454 shipped into the state except upon written permission of the
455 commissioner.

456 Sec. 13. Section 22-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the
457 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

458 [All neat cattle and goats brought into this state shall be accompanied
459 by a permit obtained from the Commissioner of Agriculture. Such
460 permit shall accompany all waybills or, if the animals are driven over
461 the highways, shall be in the possession of the person in charge of the
462 same. The commissioner may refuse to grant a permit to any person, or
463 any officer or agent of any corporation, who violates any statute or
464 regulation governing the importation of livestock or poultry. Neat cattle
465 and goats brought into this state for the purpose of immediate slaughter
466 upon premises where federal inspection is maintained need not be
467 accompanied by such permit, provided all such cattle or goats
468 transported into this state shall be accompanied by a bill of sale or
469 certificate of assignment, made out by the consignor and showing the
470 name of the consignee and the destination. The owner of each
471 establishment where federal inspection is maintained shall report
472 weekly to the commissioner, upon forms furnished by him, the number
473 of head so imported. Such owner shall also report to said commissioner
474 the ear tag or identification number and the name of the previous owner

475 of all animals purchased within the state and delivered to such
476 establishments.]

477 (a) All livestock brought into this state shall be accompanied by a
478 livestock importation permit obtained from the commissioner and a
479 certificate of veterinary inspection. Such certificate of veterinary
480 inspection shall include the following: (1) Date of examination, (2)
481 physical location of origin of such livestock, (3) name and mailing
482 address of the consignor, (4) physical location of the destination in this
483 state, (5) name and mailing address of the consignee, (6) official
484 identification of each animal's age, sex, breed and species for each
485 animal represented on the certificate of veterinary inspection, and (7)
486 results of all tests required by this chapter. At the time of examination,
487 the issuing veterinarian shall verify that each animal represented on the
488 certificate of veterinary inspection bears identification tags or other
489 identification to officially identify the livestock. Such certificate of
490 veterinary inspection shall also include a statement verifying that the
491 livestock identified on the document have been inspected and that they
492 are free from clinical signs of any contagious, infectious or
493 communicable diseases and that the livestock do not originate from an
494 area of quarantine, infestation or infection. A certificate of veterinary
495 inspection shall be valid for thirty days after the date of issuance and
496 shall be signed by an accredited veterinarian. Any livestock import
497 permit issued pursuant to this section shall expire fifteen days after the
498 date of issuance.

499 (b) Not later than forty-eight hours after imported livestock arrives at
500 the destination for such livestock in this state, the owner of such
501 livestock shall complete and return the import permit to the
502 commissioner and report the number of each species imported and
503 include a copy of the certificate of veterinary inspection that
504 accompanied the livestock into this state.

505 (c) The commissioner may refuse to grant a livestock import permit
506 to any person, or any officer or agent of any corporation, who violates
507 any statute or regulation governing the importation of livestock.

508 Whenever an import permit is refused or revoked, the commissioner
509 shall notify such person importing the livestock of the violations and
510 corrections necessary and, after making corrections, such person may
511 reapply for a livestock import permit.

512 (d) Livestock brought into this state: (1) For the purpose of immediate
513 slaughter upon premises where federal inspection is maintained, (2) to
514 a slaughter facility approved by the commissioner, or (3) to a licensed
515 livestock commission sales stable authorized to handle out-of-state
516 livestock by the USDA and the State Veterinarian, shall be exempt from
517 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, provided all such
518 livestock transported into this state are accompanied with an owner-
519 shipper statement that shall include the following: (A) The name and
520 address of the consignor and the consignee; (B) the point of origin of
521 such livestock and identification of the premises that is the destination
522 for such livestock; (C) the date of entry into the state and a statement
523 that all livestock are consigned for immediate slaughter; (D) a listing of
524 official identification of each animal, as required in subsection (a) of this
525 section; and (E) the signature of the shipper certifying that the animals
526 are imported for slaughter only.

527 (e) Any person who transports livestock or equines into this state for
528 exhibition or competition purposes may obtain an exhibition permit
529 from the commissioner prior to entering the state. Livestock or equines
530 listed in the exhibition permit and on the certificate of veterinary
531 inspection shall be exempt from the requirement for a new certificate of
532 veterinary inspection every thirty days for the duration of the exhibition
533 permit. All tests required pursuant to this chapter and chapter 438a, as
534 applicable, to qualify for importation shall be listed on the certificate of
535 veterinary inspection and shall be kept current for the duration of the
536 exhibition permit. Exhibition permits shall expire six months after the
537 date of issuance.

538 Sec. 14. Section 22-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the
539 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

540 The commissioner may refuse to grant permits to import animals

541 from any and all sections or areas [which in his opinion] that the
542 commissioner determines are infected with a contagious disease, and
543 [he] the commissioner may, at any time, revoke any permit previously
544 issued and then outstanding, for the importation into this state of
545 animals [which] that in [his] the commissioner's opinion are infected,
546 and all damages caused or claimed to have been caused by such
547 revocation shall be borne by the owner. All [neat cattle and goats]
548 livestock entering the state shall be identified by [ear tags, registration
549 name or number, tattoo or other markings approved by the
550 commissioner] official identification.

551 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No person shall import, or
552 cause to be imported, into this state any livestock that is under any state
553 or federal quarantine due to the presence of, or the suspected presence
554 of, an infectious or contagious disease.

555 (b) No person shall import, or cause to be imported, into this state
556 any livestock that is infected with, or has been exposed to, any infectious
557 or contagious disease including, but not limited to, tuberculosis,
558 brucellosis, anaplasmosis, psoroptic scabies, chronic wasting disease,
559 bovine spongiform encephalopathy, hog cholera, pseudorabies, rabies
560 or scrapie.

561 (c) No person shall import, or cause to be imported, into this state any
562 livestock unless an import permit issued pursuant to section 22-308 of
563 the general statutes, as amended by this act, is obtained and each animal
564 is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an
565 accredited veterinarian certifying that each animal has been inspected,
566 is not showing signs of infectious or contagious diseases, and has been
567 tested in accordance with the requirements of chapter 433 of the general
568 statutes.

569 (d) Livestock imported into this state for movement directly to
570 slaughter at a facility under a grant of inspection from the United States
571 Department of Agriculture, or approved by the commissioner, are
572 exempt from subsection (c) of this section provided such livestock are
573 accompanied by the owner-shipper statement required pursuant to

574 subsection (d) of section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by
575 this act. No such livestock shall be sold or transferred live to any person,
576 firm or corporation.

577 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) All cattle or bison imported into
578 this state shall be accompanied by an import permit required pursuant
579 to section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and a
580 certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian
581 thirty days or less prior to entry to the state that includes the dates and
582 results of any tests required by this section, the official identification of
583 each animal and certification that such cattle or bison meet the following
584 requirements: (1) They originated from a herd that was negative to a
585 whole herd tuberculin test performed not more than twelve months
586 prior to such entry into this state and each imported animal was
587 included in such whole herd test or tested negative to a tuberculosis test
588 performed not more than sixty days prior to entry into this state, and (2)
589 for bulls and non-brucellosis vaccinated female cattle six months of age
590 and older and for official calfhood vaccinates eighteen months of age
591 and older, that they are negative to an official test for brucellosis that
592 was performed not more than thirty days prior to entry into this state.
593 Spayed heifers and steers imported as feeder cattle are exempt from
594 such brucellosis testing. Cattle and bison vaccinated as adults for
595 brucellosis are not eligible for entry into the state. Cattle and bison that
596 were vaccinated when they were more than three hundred fifty-nine
597 days of age with diluted brucella abortus vaccine are not eligible for
598 entry into the state.

599 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any sheep imported into this
600 state shall be accompanied by an import permit required pursuant to
601 section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and a
602 certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian
603 not more than thirty days prior to entry into this state that includes the
604 dates and results of any required tests, the official identification of each
605 animal and certification that the sheep listed on the certificate of
606 veterinary inspection have not been exposed to scrapie.

607 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any goat imported into this
608 state shall be accompanied by an import permit required pursuant to
609 section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and a
610 certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian
611 not more than thirty days prior to entry into this state that includes: (1)
612 The dates and results of any tests required by this section, (2) the official
613 identification of each animal, and (3) certification that any goat listed on
614 the certificate of veterinary inspection has not been exposed to scrapie.
615 Additionally, any such goat shall meet the following requirements: (A)
616 They shall originate from a herd where they were included in a whole
617 herd with negative tuberculosis tests administered not more than
618 twelve months prior to such entry, (B) any such goat over three months
619 of age shall have tested negative to a tuberculin test not more than sixty
620 days prior to such entry, and (C) any goat over three months of age shall
621 have tested negative for brucellosis not more than thirty days prior to
622 such entry. Any kid goat under three months of age may be imported
623 on the dam's test chart if the dam was brucellosis tested and found
624 negative not more than twelve months prior to such entry and a copy of
625 such test result is provided to the commissioner. Any wether shall be
626 exempt from such brucellosis testing.

627 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any camelid imported into this
628 state shall be accompanied by an import permit required pursuant to
629 section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and a
630 certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian
631 not more than thirty days prior to entry into this state. Such certificate
632 shall include the dates and results of any tests required by this section
633 and the official identification of each animal. Additionally, any such
634 camelid shall: (1) Have tested negative for tuberculosis using an axillary
635 tuberculin test not more than sixty days prior to such entry, and (2) if
636 six months of age or older, test negative for brucellosis not more than
637 thirty days prior to such entry.

638 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) All cervidae imported into this
639 state shall be accompanied by an import or exhibition permit required
640 pursuant to section 22-308 of the general statutes, as amended by this

641 act, and a certificate of veterinary inspection that verifies compliance
642 with the provisions of section 26-57a of the general statutes and any
643 regulations adopted pursuant to said section.

644 Sec. 21. Section 22-316 of the general statutes is repealed and the
645 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

646 [All cattle or goats found to be affected with a communicable disease
647 shall be killed and the carcasses disposed of and premises disinfected in
648 accordance with the order of the Commissioner of Agriculture and at
649 the expense of the owner.] All carcasses of diseased livestock
650 condemned pursuant to this chapter shall be disposed of in a manner
651 acceptable to the commissioner. The premises shall be disinfected in a
652 manner acceptable to the commissioner before livestock are
653 reintroduced to such premises.

654 Sec. 22. Section 22-318a of the general statutes is repealed and the
655 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

656 Any herd owner, auctioneer, [cattle] livestock dealer or sales
657 manager, who contemplates a complete dispersal sale of a herd or a sale
658 in which more than ten head is to be sold in a group shall furnish a list
659 of animals to be sold to the [Commissioner of Agriculture]
660 commissioner not later than fourteen days prior to the sale. [, unless the
661 commissioner, in his sole discretion, shall find that this requirement,
662 under existing conditions, would impose undue hardship on the seller,
663 in which case he may waive it.] No owner, auctioneer, [cattle] livestock
664 dealer or sales manager shall conduct a dispersal sale without the
665 approval of the commissioner. The [commissioner may, in his
666 discretion,] State Veterinarian may require such herd to be [tuberculin
667 or brucellosis tested, or both,] tested for diseases, as the State
668 Veterinarian determines are necessary, before such sale. If such herd has
669 been tested or is tested in accordance with the provisions of this section
670 [and is found negative to both tests, or a permit has been issued by the
671 commissioner in accordance with the provisions of section 22-303] and
672 is found negative, permission shall be granted for said sale. [These tests
673 shall be applied as private tests if not a routine test assignment. Any

674 person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more
675 than one hundred dollars.] Any test required pursuant to this section
676 shall be performed at the owner's expense.

677 Sec. 23. Section 22-319b of the general statutes is repealed and the
678 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

679 (a) Any person, firm or corporation engaged in the growing of swine
680 that are to be used or disposed of elsewhere than on the premises where
681 such swine are grown shall register with the [Commissioner of
682 Agriculture] commissioner on forms furnished by the commissioner.
683 The commissioner may make orders and adopt regulations, in
684 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning examination,
685 quarantine, disinfection, preventive treatment, disposition,
686 transportation, importation, feeding and sanitation for the protection of
687 swine from contagious and infectious disease. Said commissioner shall,
688 at once, cause an investigation of all cases of such diseases coming to the
689 commissioner's knowledge and shall use all proper means to
690 exterminate and prevent spread of the same. Instructions shall be
691 issued, in writing, by the commissioner or the commissioner's agent that
692 shall contain directions for quarantine and disinfection of the premises
693 where such disease exists. [No swine shall be brought into Connecticut
694 by any individual, corporation or common carrier, unless the same
695 originate from a herd that is validated as brucellosis-free and qualified
696 pseudorabies-negative, and are accompanied by a permit issued by the
697 commissioner and an official health certificate showing such animals to
698 be free from any contagious or infectious disease, except that swine
699 brought into this state for the purpose of immediate slaughter upon
700 premises where federal inspection is maintained need not be
701 accompanied by an official health certificate and the owner of each
702 establishment where federal inspection is maintained shall report
703 weekly to the commissioner, upon forms furnished by the
704 commissioner, the number of such swine imported. Such permit shall
705 accompany all waybills or, if animals are driven or carted over
706 highways, shall be in the possession of the person in charge of swine. In
707 addition to any other requirements of this section, all swine imported

708 for other than immediate slaughter that are over three months of age,
709 other than barrows, shall be negative as to a blood test for brucellosis
710 and pseudorabies within thirty days of importation. With approval of
711 the State Veterinarian, a thirty-day blood test may not be required for
712 swine originating from, and residing for at least thirty days prior to
713 importation in, a state that is validated as brucellosis-free and stage V
714 pseudorabies-free, or for swine originating from any herd which the
715 State Veterinarian determines to be pathogen-free. With such approval,
716 swine may be imported pursuant to an import permit and a current
717 official health certificate. All swine brought into the state for immediate
718 slaughter shall be killed in an approved slaughterhouse under
719 veterinary inspection.]

720 (b) Any person, firm or corporation engaged in breeding swine in this
721 state shall have all breeding swine tested for brucellosis and
722 pseudorabies. Such testing shall be performed by an accredited
723 veterinarian, a veterinarian employed by the USDA, or the department
724 or an employee employed by the department, under supervision of the
725 State Veterinarian. The owner of any herd or animal to be so tested shall
726 provide assistance and proper restraint for confining the animals for and
727 during the application and diagnosis of said test. The state shall not be
728 liable for any damages incurred or alleged to have been incurred from
729 such test. Testing for brucellosis shall comply with section 22-298, as
730 amended by this act. The procedures for testing for pseudorabies and
731 the control and disposition of pseudorabies positive swine shall
732 conform to the USDA, pseudorabies eradication program standards.

733 (c) All swine imported into this state shall be accompanied by an
734 import permit required pursuant to section 22-308, as amended by this
735 act, and a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited
736 veterinarian not more than thirty days prior to entry into this state and
737 that includes the dates and results of any tests required by this section,
738 the official identification of each swine and certification that each swine
739 originated from a: (1) Brucellosis validated free herd, provided the herd
740 number, the date of the last whole herd negative brucellosis test that
741 includes the swine being imported shall be recorded on the certificate of

742 veterinary inspection, or, in the alternative, each swine over three
743 months of age shall have been tested and found negative for brucellosis
744 not more than thirty days prior to such entry; and (2) pseudorabies
745 qualified free herd, provided the number and date of the last whole herd
746 negative test that includes the swine being imported shall be recorded
747 on the certificate of veterinary inspection, or, in the alternative, each
748 swine shall have been tested and found negative for pseudorabies not
749 more than thirty days prior to such entry. Barrows shall be exempt from
750 such brucellosis testing.

751 Sec. 24. Section 22-320a of the general statutes is repealed and the
752 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

753 As used in [sections 22-320a] this section and sections 22-320b to 22-
754 320h, inclusive:

755 [(a) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

756 (b) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

757 (c) "Person" means the state or any political subdivision thereof, or
758 any institution, public or private, any corporation, any limited liability
759 company, any individual or any partnership;

760 (d)] (1) "Garbage" means any material containing meat resulting from
761 the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of foods including
762 animal carcasses or parts thereof. [, but the term "garbage" shall]
763 "Garbage" does not [apply to] include waste materials from
764 slaughterhouses [which] that go directly to rendering plants for
765 processing; and

766 [(e)] (2) "Garbage-feeding swine farm" includes all premises on which
767 one or more swine are maintained and are fed garbage.

768 Sec. 25. Section 22-321 of the general statutes is repealed and the
769 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

770 (a) Any person, or any officer or agent of any corporation, who

771 violates any provision of this chapter for which no other penalty is
772 provided, [or] who obstructs or attempts to obstruct the [Commissioner
773 of Agriculture or his deputy or any of his assistants] commissioner, an
774 authorized agent of the commissioner or an employee of the department
775 in the performance of [his duty] a duty established in this chapter, or
776 who violates any regulation established by said commissioner, shall be
777 fined two hundred fifty dollars for a first such violation or obstruction
778 and for any such second violation or obstruction shall be guilty of a class
779 D misdemeanor.

780 (b) Any person who misleads or attempts to mislead the
781 commissioner by removing or altering the official identification of any
782 livestock or by falsifying a certificate of veterinary inspection shall be
783 fined two hundred fifty dollars for a first such violation and shall be
784 guilty of a class D misdemeanor for any second or subsequent such
785 violation.

786 Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any laboratory or veterinarian
787 that conducts testing of livestock or poultry in this state shall notify the
788 State Veterinarian, on forms or in a manner prescribed by the
789 Commissioner of Agriculture, of any positive test results for any
790 notifiable or reportable disease pursuant to section 22-26f of the general
791 statutes. Such notification shall be made not later than twenty-four
792 hours after receipt of any such results. Any person who violates this
793 section for a first violation shall be subject to an administrative civil
794 penalty, issued pursuant to section 22-7 of the general statutes, of not
795 more than five hundred dollars, and for any such second or subsequent
796 violation, not more than one thousand dollars.

797 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of
798 Agriculture shall be the state official in charge of inspecting any
799 producer and any producer that also operates as a rabbit processing
800 facility. Any inspection conducted pursuant to this section by the
801 commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent, shall be
802 consistent with the requirements of any applicable provision of the
803 Code of Federal Regulations, including, but not limited to, any health,

804 sanitary and safety-related provision. Rabbit processing facilities that
805 have passed Department of Agriculture facility inspections pursuant to
806 this section shall be designated as approved food sources for household
807 consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses and retail food
808 establishments. For purposes of this section, "producer" means any
809 person, firm or corporation engaged in the breeding, raising or keeping
810 of not more than one thousand rabbits in a calendar year for the purpose
811 of food production.

812 Sec. 28. Subsection (a) of section 22-277 of the general statutes is
813 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
814 *passage*):

815 (a) As used in this section, "livestock animal" means any camelid or
816 hooved animal raised for domestic or commercial use. The
817 Commissioner of Agriculture shall supervise commission sales stables
818 where livestock animals are sold at public auctions. Any person, firm or
819 corporation engaged in the business of selling livestock animals at such
820 auctions or sales shall annually apply to said commissioner for a license
821 upon a form to be prescribed by the commissioner. The fee for each such
822 license shall be one hundred ninety dollars, payable to said
823 commissioner. Each such license shall be issued for the period of one
824 year from July first and may be revoked for cause. If, in the judgment of
825 the commissioner, any provision of this section has been violated, the
826 commissioner shall send notice by registered or certified mail to the
827 licensee, who shall be given a hearing, and, if violation is proven, the
828 license shall be revoked. If a license to deal in livestock, issued to any
829 person, firm or corporation by another state, has been suspended or
830 revoked by such state within five years next preceding the date of
831 issuance or renewal of a license to such person, firm or corporation
832 under the provisions of this section, such suspension or revocation shall
833 constitute just cause for revocation under this section. All dairy animals
834 to be sold at such auction shall be segregated from beef animals prior to
835 such sales. The sale of dairy animals shall precede the sale of those
836 assigned for slaughter. All bovines more than three hundred pounds in
837 weight, except dairy and breeding animals, that are delivered to a sale

838 shall be branded with the letter "S" in a conspicuous place or identified
839 in a manner acceptable to the commissioner or the commissioner's
840 designee by the operator of the sale or the operator's representative. All
841 dairy and breeding animals from within the state arriving at a sale shall
842 be from a herd that: (1) Is under state supervision for the control of
843 brucellosis and tuberculosis and that has been tested for brucellosis and
844 tuberculosis less than fourteen months before the sale, (2) has been
845 tested for tuberculosis less than fourteen months before the sale and is
846 regularly tested under the brucellosis ring test program of the
847 Department of Agriculture, or (3) is certified to be brucellosis-free under
848 the program established pursuant to section 22-299a. All dairy and
849 breeding animals arriving at a sale from outside the state shall comply
850 with [section 22-304] chapter 433 and be accompanied by a health
851 certificate issued by the livestock official of the state of their origin and
852 by an import permit from the commissioner. All animals offered for
853 dairy or breeding purposes shall be identified by an official ear tag, or
854 by a breed registration number if accompanied by the corresponding
855 breed registration certificate. Animals consigned for slaughter shall be
856 sold only to owners or agents of slaughtering establishments and moved
857 directly to such slaughtering establishments for immediate slaughter or
858 slaughter that occurs not later than seventy-two hours after the time of
859 sale. All stables and sales rings shall be kept clean and shall be suitably
860 disinfected prior to each sale. The provisions of this section shall not
861 apply to the sale of an individual herd at an auction conducted by the
862 owner thereof. Any person, or any officer or agent of any corporation,
863 who violates any provision of this section or who obstructs or attempts
864 to obstruct the Commissioner of Agriculture or the commissioner's
865 deputy or assistants in the performance of their duty, shall be guilty of
866 a class D misdemeanor.

867 Sec. 29. Sections 22-284, 22-304, 22-318, 22-318b, 22-291 to 22-293,
868 inclusive, and 22-310 to 22-313, inclusive, of the general statutes are
869 repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-278
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-279
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-279a
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-287
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-288
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-288a
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-294
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-295
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-296
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-298
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	22-301
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	22-303
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	22-308
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	22-309
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	22-316
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	22-318a
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	22-319b
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	22-320a
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	22-321
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	22-277(a)
Sec. 29	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which revises livestock laws, is anticipated to result in a potential cost and a potential revenue gain to the Judicial Department, beginning in FY 24, associated with a change to certain violations.

Section 25 imposes a penalty for misleading or attempting to mislead DoAg by altering a livestock's identification or falsifying a certificate of veterinary inspection, beginning in FY 23. A violator is subject to a \$250 fine for a first violation and a class D misdemeanor for a second or subsequent violation. The new class D misdemeanor charge results in a potential cost to the Judicial Department and a potential revenue gain from fines. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800 each year. The section includes other changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 27 requires DoAg to inspect rabbit processing facilities, beginning in FY 24, which results in no fiscal impact. As only a few new rabbit processing facilities are expected, existing staff that currently inspect small-scale poultry processing facilities can also inspect these

new facilities.

The bill makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations that occur.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6726*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK AND CERTAIN RABBIT PROCESSING FACILITIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill revises the state's livestock statutes to reflect language changes over time from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It updates compensation and quarantine requirements for condemned livestock and public health responsibilities regarding reportable diseases.

Among other things, the bill generally requires livestock imported to the state to have a livestock importation permit and a certificate of veterinary inspection (i.e., health certificate). It specifies importation requirements for livestock generally and specifically for cattle, bison, sheep, goats, camelids (e.g., camels, llamas, alpacas), Cervidae (e.g., deer), and swine. The bill broadly prohibits importing an animal infected with or exposed to any infectious disease (e.g., tuberculosis, brucellosis, anaplasmosis, psoroptic scabies, chronic wasting disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, hog cholera, pseudorabies, rabies, or scrapie).

The bill imposes a general penalty for violating the livestock statutes and related regulations when specific penalties are not provided. Under this general penalty, a violator is subject to a \$250 fine for a first violation and a class D misdemeanor for a second (and, presumably, subsequent) violation. (Under current law, the general penalty for all violations is a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250, or both.)

The bill also allows for in-state processing of rabbits for human

consumption (§ 27). Specifically, it makes the agriculture commissioner the state official in charge of inspecting rabbit producers and rabbit processing facilities. It defines a “producer” as one who breeds, raises, or keeps up to 1,000 rabbits in a year for food production purposes. The bill requires that inspections done by the commissioner or his designated agents be consistent with federal health, sanitation, and safety regulations. It designates a rabbit processing facility that passes inspection as an approved food source for household consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, and retail food establishments.

Lastly, the bill makes numerous technical and conforming changes (e.g., §§ 24 & 28) and repeals several statutes, the contents of which generally are incorporated in other sections of the bill (§ 29).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the rabbit processing provisions are effective October 1, 2023.

§§ 1 & 2 — LIVESTOCK ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

Orders and Regulations

By law, the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner may issue orders or adopt regulations on importing, transporting, trailing, riding, driving, exhibiting, examining, testing, identifying, quarantining, or disposing of livestock to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious disease among the livestock and protect the public from any transmissible disease. For this and other laws on domestic animal disease, the bill additionally allows the commissioner to designate an agent, including the State Veterinarian, to do his duties. As under existing law, the bill defines “livestock” as any camelid or hooved animal raised for domestic or commercial use, but the bill further specifies that livestock is generally used to produce food or fiber and considered farm animals.

As under current law, the commissioner must give notice of orders to those named in them by leaving a copy with them or those with custody of the affected animals, if they are located in Connecticut. If those named in the order are not in Connecticut, the commissioner must send the

order by registered or certified mail to the last-known address. The bill also allows the commissioner to send an order to an out-of-state person electronically if that person previously agreed to receive electronic notices.

Similarly, existing law requires the commissioner to give notice to any common carrier named in an order or affected by a regulation on livestock. Currently, notice must be given by leaving a copy with the carrier's president, secretary, or treasurer or other person at the carrier or at their last-known address. The bill allows the commissioner to give these notices through email if the carrier previously agreed to receive electronic notices.

Under current law, in the case of an emergency, the commissioner may give notice of a regulation limiting or prohibiting moving, exhibiting, or disposing of livestock on a highway by publishing it in a newspaper with a substantial circulation in the town in which the affected highway is located. The bill applies this requirement to orders, instead of regulations.

Quarantine Orders

By law, the commissioner may quarantine animals he reasonably believes have a contagious disease, do not meet DoAg requirements, or are kept in unsanitary conditions that endanger them or the public. Currently, a quarantine order may prohibit or regulate the sale of the animals and their products and require their confinement at a place the commissioner designates for as long as he deems necessary. The bill also allows quarantine orders to prohibit or regulate the movement of the animals, including dead ones (i.e., "mortalities") and their products.

Penalties

Under current law, anyone who violates an order or regulation, or obstructs or attempts to obstruct the commissioner or his agents in carrying out their duties, is fined up to \$100 or assessed an administrative civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per violation and \$250 per day of a continuing violation. Also under current law, anyone who

violates a quarantine order is fined \$500 per day of continuing violation, up to \$25,000.

The bill instead allows violators in each case to be fined up to \$500 per day, per animal, for each day the violation continues, up to \$25,000.

§ 3 — DISEASE OR BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL RESIDUE TESTING

Under current law, any livestock or poultry that is tested for disease under USDA rules or a biological or chemical residue generally must be quarantined at the testing location until test results are available and signed by a veterinarian or DoAg employee who administered the test.

The bill applies this to animals being tested for disease under USDA rules or a biological or chemical residue known to be in the state. Additionally, it requires that the veterinarian involved must be licensed and accredited. Under the bill, an “accredited veterinarian” is a veterinarian approved under category II of the USDA’s National Veterinary Accreditation Program and by the state animal health official of the state that licenses the veterinarian to practice.

§ 4 — TUBERCULOSIS TESTING

Under current law, the DoAg commissioner may require neat cattle and all goats to be tuberculin tested by a licensed accredited veterinarian at the state’s expense or a USDA or DoAg veterinarian. The bill instead allows the commissioner to require and provide for the testing and control of tuberculosis in any livestock at the state’s expense. Testing is restricted to the state veterinarian, veterinarians the federal government employs, and Connecticut-licensed accredited veterinarians. (Any infected livestock are subject to the condemnation provisions in § 5, described below.)

The bill requires that the testing procedures and the control and disposition of any reacting livestock (i.e., reactors) conform to one of the following:

1. for goats, cattle, bison, and captive cervids, the USDA Uniform

Methods and Rules for Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication;

2. for other livestock, the procedures, methods, testing, and disposition of reactors determined by the state veterinarian; or
3. the most recent USDA approved and published procedures for tuberculosis testing and the control and disposition of brucellosis-positive livestock.

Further, the bill specifies that the state is not liable for any damage incurred or alleged to have been incurred by any testing.

§§ 5 & 21 — CONDEMNING AND COMPENSATING FOR INFECTED LIVESTOCK

Condemnation

Under current law, the DoAg commissioner may have any domestic animal that tests positive for tuberculosis killed. However, if the animal is cattle, he cannot do so until the cattle's owner and the commissioner (or their arbitrators) determine the animal's value for purposes of the state's compensation to the owner.

The bill instead allows the commissioner to have any livestock infected with any infectious or contagious disease, including tuberculosis, anthrax, or foot and mouth disease, euthanized. The commissioner must first determine the condemned livestock's value for compensation purposes. When determining the value, the bill (1) requires him to consider the livestock's age, sex, grade, and purpose for being kept and (2) allows him to consult with livestock dealers, commission sales stables, or other sources familiar with the value of livestock.

Current law specifies how an animal that tests positive for tuberculosis must be tagged. The bill instead requires that a condemned animal must be identified with a tag, brand device, or marking that the commissioner approves. Additionally, current law prohibits a condemned animal from being killed, sold, or used for food except as the commissioner directs. The bill also prohibits a condemned animal

from being moved except as the commissioner directs.

Under current law, once an animal has been killed, the premises where the animal was kept must be disinfected within 15 days after the commissioner's order. The bill instead requires the premises to be disinfected within a time period the commissioner specifies and in a way acceptable to him before livestock are reintroduced to the premises.

Under the bill, anyone aggrieved by a commissioner's condemnation order may appeal to Hartford Superior Court within seven days after the order is issued.

Compensation

Under the bill, similar to current law, the state will compensate the owner of a condemned animal, limited to the difference between the animal's fair market value and the amount of indemnity or payment the owner received from the federal government. The state will not compensate for any livestock unless the animal has been destroyed. Additionally, the state will not pay for an animal that has no real value or that was in the state for less than three months before being quarantined, unless the animal was born into the herd in Connecticut or was imported to the state in compliance with state law.

The bill eliminates an exception in current law on compensation for animals condemned to prevent foot and mouth disease or anthrax. It also eliminates a \$2,000 limit on the appraisal amount for condemned, registered, purebred bovine animals and a \$1,100 limit for grade bovine animals.

Disposal

Under current law, cattle and goats found to be affected by a communicable disease must be killed, and the carcasses disposed of in keeping with the DoAg commissioner's order and at the owner's expense.

The bill instead requires that all carcasses of diseased livestock that are condemned pursuant to state law be disposed of in a way that is

acceptable to the commissioner.

§ 6 — CONDEMNED HERD

Under current law, the DoAg commissioner has authority to condemn a cattle herd due to recurring tuberculosis or brucellosis within a two-year period or substantial infection throughout the herd. Under the bill, if the DoAg commissioner finds that (1) tuberculosis or brucellosis recurs in a livestock herd within a two-year period or (2) any livestock herd is substantially infected with tuberculosis, brucellosis, or other infectious or contagious disease, he may condemn the herd to prevent the spread of disease or protect public health. The state must pay compensation for a condemned herd as described in § 5 above.

As under current law, anyone aggrieved by a commissioner's order to condemn a herd may appeal to Superior Court within seven days after the order is issued, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

§ 7 — CARE OF HERDS

Current law requires a herd owner to house, feed, and care for the animals in sanitary conditions that promote the herd's health. The bill expands this to apply to any livestock herd to promote the herd's health and welfare. As under current law, calves may be fed milk and dairy products only from a herd that tested negative for tuberculosis or that is pasteurized at 142 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes.

§ 8 — RECORDKEEPING

Current law requires a herd owner to (1) keep records describing each registered or graded animal and its final disposition and (2) mark each animal with a tag or marking the DoAg commissioner approves.

The bill instead requires the owner of a livestock herd to keep a record of each animal in the herd, including the final disposition of each. It requires the herd owner to mark each animal in the herd with official identification when the animal leaves the premises and keep the identification in the animal's record. Under the bill, "official identification" is a numbering system, approved by USDA and the state

veterinarian, that (1) provides a nationally unique identification number for each animal, (2) prescribes the animal identification methods and devices approved for use in each livestock species, and (3) is affixed to each animal by tag or other USDA-approved method. The owner must keep the record for the animal's life plus one year.

§ 9 — QUARANTINING AN INFECTED HERD

Under current law, when tuberculosis is found in a herd of cattle or goats, the entire herd must be quarantined until it passes three successive negative tests with at least 60 days between each test. Current law prohibits an animal from being removed from the herd during quarantine, except under a written permit from the DoAg commissioner for slaughtering.

The bill expands these requirements to apply to any livestock herd and any reportable disease. Specifically, it requires that when a disease that is listed as reportable or notifiable by DoAg or USDA is found in a livestock herd, the entire herd must be quarantined until a time the state veterinarian determines. Also, the bill prohibits an animal from being removed from the herd during quarantine, except under a written permit from the DoAg commissioner for the purpose and under conditions specified in the permit.

§ 10 — BRUCELLOSIS TESTING

Under current law, the DoAg commissioner may require certain cattle and goats to be tested for brucellosis by the state veterinarian, veterinarians employed by DoAg or the federal government, and veterinarians licensed in Connecticut and assigned by the DoAg commissioner for that purpose. The bill instead allows the commissioner to require and provide for the testing and control of brucellosis in any livestock in the state. The bill restricts the drawing of blood and milk samples for brucellosis testing to the state veterinarian, veterinarians and trained employees of DoAg, veterinarians the federal government employs, and Connecticut-licensed accredited veterinarians. (Any infected livestock are subject to the condemnation provisions in § 5, described above.)

The bill eliminates requirements that animals testing positive be branded with a hot iron and tagged with a metal number reactor tag. The bill requires that the testing procedures and the control and disposition of any reactors conform to one of the following:

1. for cattle, bison, swine, or Cervidae, the USDA Uniform Methods and Rules for Brucellosis Eradication for the respective species;
2. for other livestock, the procedures, methods, testing, and disposition that the state veterinarian determines; or
3. the most recent USDA approved and published procedures for brucellosis procedures for testing and the control and disposition of brucellosis-positive livestock.

Further, as under current law, the bill specifies that the state is not liable for any damage incurred or alleged to have been incurred by any testing performed under these provisions.

§ 11 — SALE OF MILK

Under current law, no one may offer milk for sale in the state unless it is produced from herds that comply with state laws on tuberculosis and brucellosis. The bill specifies that no one may offer milk for sale in the state unless it is produced from herds complying with §§ 4 and 10 of the bill (i.e., tuberculosis and brucellosis testing).

Additionally, the bill requires, for new milk producers wanting to register with DoAg, that if the herd or any animal in the herd does not have a current negative tuberculosis and brucellosis test result, the herd must test negative before the commissioner may issue the milk producer registration. DoAg employees may do the testing. The bill requires that DoAg then surveillance test each registered milk producing herd for tuberculosis and brucellosis every two years.

§ 12 — BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION

By law, bovine (e.g., cattle and bison) owners may have their female calves vaccinated against brucellosis at their own expense and at ages

set out in the USDA Uniform Methods and Rules for Brucellosis Eradication. The bill eliminates current law's requirement that the DoAg commissioner identify the ages in regulations.

The bill requires a licensed accredited veterinarian to perform the vaccinations, rather than an approved licensed veterinarian, an approved federal or state full-time employed veterinarian that the DoAg commissioner assigns and authorizes, or a livestock inspector that the commissioner employs and authorizes, as under current law.

§ 13 — IMPORTING LIVESTOCK

Importation Permit and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

Current law generally requires neat cattle and goats brought into the state to be accompanied by a permit from the DoAg commissioner.

The bill instead requires all livestock brought into the state to be accompanied by a livestock importation permit obtained from the DoAg commissioner as well as a certificate of veterinary inspection signed by an accredited veterinarian. A livestock importation permit expires 15 days after its issuance, while a certificate of veterinary inspection is valid for 30 days after its issuance.

Under the bill, a certificate of veterinary inspection must include the following:

1. examination date;
2. the livestock's point of origin and destination;
3. the consignor's and consignee's names and mailing addresses;
4. the official identification of each animal's age, sex, breed, and species for each animal represented on the certificate;
5. results of all health tests required by Connecticut law; and
6. a statement verifying that the livestock (a) have been inspected and are free from clinical signs of any contagious, infectious, or

communicable diseases and (b) do not originate from an area of quarantine, infestation, or infection.

The bill also requires the veterinarian issuing the certificate to verify, at the time of examination, that each animal represented on the certificate has identification tags or other form of identification.

Under the bill, within 48 hours after imported livestock arrive at their destination in the state, the livestock's owner must (1) complete and return the importation permit to the commissioner and (2) report the number of each species imported. The owner must include with these a copy of the certificate of veterinary inspection that accompanied the livestock into the state.

As under current law, the commissioner may refuse to issue an importation permit to anyone who violates any statutes or regulations on importing livestock. The bill requires the commissioner, when refusing to issue or revoking an importation permit, to notify the importer of the violations and corrections needed. After making the corrections, the person may reapply for a permit.

Importing for Immediate Slaughter

Current law exempts neat cattle and goats brought into the state for immediate slaughter at federally inspected premises from needing a permit as long as they are accompanied by a bill of sale or certificate of assignment. It also requires the slaughter facility's owner to report weekly to the DoAg commissioner with the number of animals imported for slaughter.

Under the bill, livestock brought into the state are exempt from needing an importation permit and certificate of veterinary inspection if they are brought to (1) federally inspected premises for immediate slaughter, (2) a slaughter facility approved by the commissioner, or (3) a licensed livestock commission sales stable authorized by the USDA and state veterinarian. The exemption applies as long as the livestock are accompanied by an owner-shipper statement that includes the following:

1. the consignor's and consignee's names and addresses;
2. the livestock's point of origin and destination;
3. the date of entry into the state;
4. a statement that the livestock are consigned for immediate slaughter;
5. a listing of each animal's official identification, including age, sex, breed, and species; and
6. the shipper's signature certifying the animals are imported for slaughter only.

Importing for Exhibition or Competition Purposes

Under the bill, anyone transporting livestock or equines into the state for exhibition or competition purposes may obtain an exhibition permit from the DoAg commissioner before entering the state. Animals listed in the exhibition permit and on the certificate of veterinary inspection are exempt from requiring a new certificate of veterinary inspection every 30 days for the duration of the exhibition permit. An exhibition permit expires six months after its issuance.

For the duration of the exhibition permit, the bill requires that all tests required under state law to qualify for importation be listed on the certificate of veterinary inspection and kept current.

§ 14 — REFUSAL TO PERMIT IMPORTATION

Current law allows the DoAg commissioner to refuse to grant import permits for neat cattle and goats from any area that are infected with a contagious disease. It also allows him to revoke any permit for animals that, in his opinion, are infected. The bill expands his right to refuse to issue or to revoke a permit to livestock generally.

Also, the bill requires all livestock entering the state to be identified by official identification, rather than ear tags, registration name or number, tattoo, or other markings approved by the commissioner as

under current law.

§§ 15-20 & 23 — IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS BY SPECIES

Livestock Generally (§ 15)

The bill prohibits anyone from importing livestock into the state if the livestock is (1) under quarantine due to the presence, or suspected presence, of an infectious or contagious disease and (2) infected with, or has been exposed to, any infectious or contagious disease.

The bill also prohibits anyone from importing livestock into the state unless an importation permit is obtained as required in § 13 (described above) and each animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection from an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals have been inspected, are not showing signs of disease, and have been tested in accordance with state law.

The bill exempts from the permit and certificate requirements any livestock imported for slaughter at a facility under a USDA grant of inspection or approved by the DoAg commissioner, as long as the livestock come with the owner-shipper statement required in § 13. The bill prohibits any livestock brought into the state for slaughter to be sold or transferred live to anyone.

Cattle and Bison (§ 16)

The bill requires that all cattle or bison imported into the state come with an importation permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days before importation. The certificate must include the dates and results of any required tests, the official identification of each animal, and a certification that the cattle or bison meet the following requirements:

1. they originated from a herd that was negative to a whole herd tuberculin test performed within 12 months before importation and each animal was included in the whole herd test or tested negative to a tuberculosis test performed within 60 days of importation and

2. for bulls and non-brucellosis vaccinated female cattle at least six months old, and for official calfhood vaccinates (i.e., those vaccinated when they were calves) at least 18 months old, that they tested negative to an official brucellosis test performed within 30 days before importation.

The bill exempts from brucellosis testing spayed heifers and steer that are imported as feeder cattle (i.e., for eventual slaughter). The bill also prohibits cattle and bison from being imported into the state if they were vaccinated (1) as adults or (2) when they were more than 359 days of age with diluted brucella abortus vaccine.

Sheep (§ 17)

The bill requires that any sheep imported into the state come with an importation permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days before importation. The certificate must include the dates and results of any required tests, the official identification of each animal, and a certification that the sheep listed on the certificate have not been exposed to scrapie.

Goats (§ 18)

The bill requires that any goat imported into the state come with an importation permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days before importation. The certificate must include the dates and results of any required tests, the official identification of each animal, and a certification that the goats listed on the certificate have not been exposed to scrapie. Each goat also must meet the following requirements:

1. they originated from a herd that was negative to a whole herd tuberculin test performed within 12 months before importation and they each were included in the test,
2. each goat more than three months old has tested negative to a tuberculosis test performed within 60 days before importation, and

3. each goat more than three months old has tested negative to a brucellosis test performed within 30 days before importation.

The bill allows a kid goat under three months old to be imported on its dam's (female parent's) test chart if the dam tested negative for brucellosis within 12 months of importation and a copy of that test result is given to the commissioner. The bill exempts from brucellosis testing any wether (i.e., castrated male goat).

Camelids (§ 19)

The bill requires that any camelid (e.g., camels, llamas, alpacas) imported into the state come with an importation permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days before importation. The certificate must include the dates and results of any required tests and the official identification of each animal. Each camelid also must meet the following requirements:

1. have tested negative for tuberculosis using an axillary tuberculin test within 60 days before importation and
2. if at least six months old, test negative for brucellosis within 30 days before importation.

Cervidae (§ 20)

The bill requires that any Cervidae imported into the state come with an importation or exhibition permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary inspection that verifies compliance with CGS § 26-57a and any related regulations. Among other things, CGS § 26-57a sets requirements for imported reindeer, including testing negative for tuberculosis and brucellosis within 30 days before importation and coming from a herd that participated in a chronic wasting disease monitoring program.

Swine (§ 23)

The bill requires that any swine imported into the state come with an importation permit as required under § 13 and a certificate of veterinary

inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days before importation. The certificate must include the dates and results of any required tests, the official identification of each animal, and a certification that the swine came from a herd that was brucellosis validated free and pseudorabies qualified free. The certificate must also include the following:

1. the number and date of the last whole herd negative brucellosis test that included the swine being imported, or each swine over three months old must have tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days before importation, and
2. the number and date of the last whole herd negative pseudorabies test that included the swine being imported, or each swine must have tested negative for pseudorabies within 30 days before importation.

The bill exempts barrows (i.e., castrated male swine) from brucellosis testing.

§ 22 — DISPERSAL SALE OF LIVESTOCK

Current law requires a herd owner, auctioneer, cattle dealer, or sales manager who wants to sell a herd (i.e., dispersal sale) or more than 10 head as a group to give the DoAg commissioner a list of the animals to be sold within 14 days before the sale, unless the commissioner waives this requirement as an undue hardship. Also, no one may conduct a dispersal sale without the commissioner's approval. The bill applies these requirements to livestock dealers, instead of cattle dealers, and eliminates the commissioner's ability to waive the list requirement.

Under current law, the commissioner may require the herd to be tested for tuberculosis, brucellosis, or both before a sale. The bill instead allows the state veterinarian to require the herd to be tested for any diseases as she determines necessary. The herd's owner must pay for any required tests. If the herd tests negative, the commissioner must give permission for the sale.

Current law imposes a fine of up to \$100 on anyone who violates these sale provisions. The bill eliminates this specific penalty, meaning the statutory general penalty applies instead (see § 25 below).

§ 23 — REQUIREMENTS FOR BREEDING SWINE

The bill requires anyone who breeds swine to have all breeding swine tested for brucellosis and pseudorabies by an accredited veterinarian, USDA- or DoAg-employed veterinarian, or a DoAg employee under the state veterinarian's supervision. The animals' owner must help restrain the animals during the testing.

The bill specifies that the state is not liable for any damages incurred or alleged to have been incurred from the testing. Also, it requires that the (1) brucellosis testing comply with § 10 of the bill and (2) pseudorabies testing procedures and control and disposition of positive swine conform to USDA Pseudorabies Eradication Program standards.

§ 25 — PENALTIES

The bill changes the general penalty for (1) violating the livestock statutes and related regulations or (2) obstructing the DoAg commissioner or his agents when performing their official duties. The general penalty applies when specific penalties are not otherwise provided. Under the general penalty, a violator is subject to a \$250 fine for a first violation and a class D misdemeanor for a second (and, presumably, each subsequent) violation. (Under current law, the general penalty for all violations is a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250, or both.)

The bill also imposes a penalty for misleading or attempting to mislead the commissioner by removing or altering a livestock's official identification or falsifying a certificate of veterinary inspection. A violator is subject to a \$250 fine for a first violation and a class D misdemeanor for a second or subsequent violation.

§ 26 — NOTIFIABLE OR REPORTABLE DISEASE REPORTING

The bill requires laboratories and veterinarians that do testing on livestock or poultry to notify the state veterinarian of any positive test

results for notifiable or reportable diseases. (By law, the state veterinarian must provide a list of these diseases annually (CGS § 22-26f).) A notification must be made (1) within 24 hours after getting the test results and (2) as the DoAg commissioner prescribes.

Under the bill, anyone who violates this requirement is subject to an administrative civil penalty of up to \$500 for a first violation and up to \$1,000 for a second or subsequent violation.

§ 29 — REPEALED STATUTES

The bill repeals the following statutes, the contents of which are mostly incorporated in other sections of the bill:

1. CGS § 22-284, on handling outbreaks of the contagious disease anthrax or charbon;
2. CGS § 22-304, on controlling disease in imported cattle;
3. CGS § 22-318, on importing feeder cattle;
4. CGS § 22-318b, on allowing DoAg, upon a herd owner's request, to issue interstate health charts for a fee for livestock to be sold (the bill does not incorporate this provision);
5. CGS §§ 22-291 to 22-293, on tuberculosis-free accredited herds and livestock sale and purchase reports; and
6. CGS §§ 22-310 to 22-313, on requirements for certain cattle and goats.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 7 (03/10/2023)