



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 232

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 298

Senate, March 28, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING FOR LOCAL BUTCHER SHOPS TO PROCESS FARMER-OWNED LIVESTOCK.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
2 Agriculture shall seek funding from the federal Meat and Poultry
3 Processing Expansion Program to enable butcher shops in the state to
4 serve as United States Department of Agriculture approved processors
5 for local farmers. Such request for funding may include, but shall not be
6 limited to, the establishment by the commissioner of a start-up
7 cooperative, in partnership with the Connecticut Farm Bureau, for
8 butcher shops to serve as United States Department of Agriculture meat
9 processing facilities in the state for local producers.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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ENV Joint Favorable

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact, although it requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to apply for federal grants under the federal Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program for butcher shops to serve as U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved processors for local farmers. DoAg is not anticipated to be eligible for these American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, but privately-operated, third-party meat processors and farms could be.

The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) has a maximum award of \$25 million. If DoAg is eligible for this grant, the agency would likely apply for between \$10 million and \$15 million. However, the agency is not anticipated to be eligible based on the federal rules for the program. Third-party, privately-operated livestock farmers who opt to expand into processing their own meat may pursue this option to the extent the farm can be rezoned for this purpose.

Lastly, there is no fiscal impact as the program is closed to new applicants.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 298*****AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING FOR LOCAL BUTCHER SHOPS TO PROCESS FARMER-OWNED LIVESTOCK.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner to seek funding under the federal Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program to enable Connecticut butcher shops to serve as U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved processors for local farmers. The funding request may include the commissioner, with the Connecticut Farm Bureau, setting up a start-up cooperative for butcher shops to serve as USDA meat processing facilities for local producers.

The USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program provides grants generally to help eligible processors expand their capacity. Entities that engage or want to engage in meat and poultry processing may apply for grants. The federal American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2) authorizes the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 1 (03/10/2023)