

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6728

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOOD

Title: PROTECTION PROGRAM AUDITS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/13/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

In the continuing effort to ensure our food supply is safe, this bill authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to conduct audits of local health department food protection programs. At a minimum these audits must include interviews with local health department staff and joint inspections of local food establishments with the health department staff. Upon completion of an audit, the DPH commissioner is required to provide the local health director with a report outlining the findings of the audit and including any recommended or corrective actions the director must take.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Manisha, Juthani, MD, Commissioner of the DPH:

The Commissioner thanks the Committee for raising this DPH bill. Auditing local food inspection programs is intended to ensure uniform application of the rules governing food safety and to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. Connecticut recently adopted the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Model Food Code which will significantly modify the rules regarding food safety and inspections. The audit authority in this bill will allow DPH to ensure that the new requirements are being properly implemented and be able to identify the training and workforce needs of local food protection programs. The FDA national standard provides uniformity of retail food establishment inspections and most importantly, compliance with this standard is required for the state to remain eligible for FDA grant funding.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Kathleen Panazza

Date: March 28, 2023