



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5398

LCO No. 462



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CONFINEMENT OF EGG-LAYING HENS.

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to provide that on and after
2 June 1, 2025, no farm owner or operator shall knowingly confine an egg-
3 laying hen in an enclosure: (1) That is not a cage-free housing system; or
4 (2) that has less than the amount of usable floor space per hen required
5 by the 2017 edition of the United Egg Producers' Animal Husbandry
6 Guidelines for U.S. Egg-Laying Flocks: Guidelines for Cage-Free
7 Housing. Additionally, to provide that on or after June 1, 2025, no
8 business owner or operator shall knowingly sell or transport for sale in
9 Connecticut a shell egg or egg product that the business owner or
10 operator knows or should know was produced by an egg-laying hen
11 that was confined in a manner that conflicts with such standards.
12 Finally, to further provide that such standards do not apply to: (A)
13 Medical research; (B) examination, testing, individual treatment or
14 operation for veterinary purposes, but only if performed by or under
15 the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian; (C) transportation; (D)
16 state or county fair exhibitions, 4-H programs and similar exhibitions;

17 (E) slaughter in accordance with any applicable laws, rules and
18 regulations; (F) temporary periods for animal husbandry purposes for
19 no more than six hours in any twenty-four-hour period and no more
20 than twenty-four hours total in any thirty-day period; or (G) the
21 production in the state, sale in the state or transport for sale in the state,
22 of shell eggs by a farm owner or operator with annual shell egg
23 production from fewer than three thousand egg-laying hens if all shell
24 eggs sold in the state or transported for sale in the state by the farm
25 owner or operator are derived from fewer than three thousand egg-
26 laying hens.

Statement of Purpose:

To promote food safety, protect public health and advance animal welfare.