



House of Representatives

File No. 660

General Assembly

February Session, 2024

(Reprint of File No. 83)

Substitute House Bill No. 5223
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 3, 2024

**AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO AGRICULTURE
RELATED STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-327 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Animal" means any brute creature, including, but not limited to,
5 dogs, cats, monkeys, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, birds and reptiles;

6 (2) "Chief Animal Control Officer", "Assistant Chief Animal Control
7 Officer" and "animal control officer" mean, respectively, the Chief State
8 Animal Control Officer, the Assistant Chief State Animal Control
9 Officer and a state animal control officer appointed under section 22-
10 328;

11 (3) "Commercial kennel" means a place maintained for boarding or

12 grooming dogs or cats, and includes, but is not limited to, any veterinary
13 hospital which boards or grooms dogs or cats for nonmedical purposes;

14 (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

15 (5) "Grooming facility" means any place, [other than a commercial
16 kennel, which] including any vehicle or trailer, that is maintained as a
17 business where dogs are groomed;

18 (6) "Keeper" means any person, other than the owner, harboring or
19 having in his possession any dog;

20 (7) "Kennel" means one pack or collection of dogs which are kept
21 under one ownership at a single location and are bred for show, sport
22 or sale;

23 (8) "Municipal animal control officer" means any such officer
24 appointed under the provisions of section 22-331;

25 (9) "Pet shop" means any place at which animals not born and raised
26 on the premises are kept for the purpose of sale to the public;

27 (10) "Poultry" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-326s;

28 [(11) "Regional animal control officer" and "assistant regional animal
29 control officer" means a regional Connecticut animal control officer and
30 an assistant regional Connecticut animal control officer appointed
31 under the provisions of section 22-331a;]

32 [(12)] (11) "Training facility" means any place [, other than a
33 commercial kennel or grooming facility, which] that is maintained as a
34 business where dogs are trained;

35 [(13)] (12) "Service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28
36 CFR 35.104 and includes any animal in training to become a service
37 animal.

38 Sec. 2. Section 22-367 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes

39 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
40 *passage*):

41 Any person owning, keeping or harboring a dog or cat or maintaining
42 a [breeding] local kennel or commercial kennel who violates any
43 provision of this chapter for the violation of which no other penalty is
44 provided, or any regulation legally made and published shall be fined
45 not less than two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than
46 thirty days or both. No commercial kennel shall board any dog or cat
47 unless the owner of the dog or cat presents a certificate of vaccination as
48 required by this chapter. The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
49 control officer and any municipal or regional control officer shall
50 diligently inquire after, and prosecute for, any violation of any provision
51 of this chapter.

52 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 22-380f of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
54 *passage*):

55 (a) No pound shall sell or give away any unspayed or unneutered
56 dog or cat to any person unless such pound receives forty-five dollars
57 from the person buying or adopting such dog or cat. Funds received
58 pursuant to this section shall be paid quarterly by the municipality into
59 the animal population control account established under section 22-
60 380g. At the time of receipt of such payment, the pound shall complete
61 a voucher, for the purpose of benefits, as provided in section 22-380i, for
62 the sterilization and vaccination of such dog or cat and (1) provide the
63 voucher to the person buying or adopting such dog or cat, or (2) retain
64 such voucher and submit it to a participating veterinarian for such
65 sterilization and vaccination before releasing the dog or cat to the person
66 buying or adopting the dog or cat. Any such voucher shall be on a form
67 provided by the commissioner and signed (A) by the eligible owner if
68 the voucher is provided to the person buying or adopting the dog or cat,
69 or (B) by a representative of the pound if the pound retains the voucher.
70 Such voucher shall become void after sixty days from the date of
71 purchase or adoption unless a participating veterinarian certifies that

72 the dog or cat is medically unfit for surgery. Such certification shall be
73 on a form provided by the commissioner and specify a date by which
74 such dog or cat may be fit for sterilization. If the surgery is performed
75 more than thirty days after such specified date, the voucher shall
76 become void. In the case of a dog or cat that has been previously
77 sterilized or is permanently medically unfit for sterilization, as
78 determined by a participating veterinarian, the voucher shall be void
79 and the eligible owner may apply to the commissioner for a refund in
80 the amount of forty-five dollars. If a dog or cat [has pyometra and] is not
81 purchased or adopted from a pound, a representative of the pound may
82 complete a voucher, for the purpose of benefits, as provided in section
83 22-380i, and submit such voucher to a participating veterinarian for the
84 sterilization and vaccination of such dog or cat.

85 Sec. 4. Section 22-413 of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

87 (a) Any equine presented for public auction in this state shall have a
88 health certificate issued by a veterinarian licensed pursuant to the
89 provisions of chapter 384, [and cosigned by the State Veterinarian.] Such
90 examination shall be obtained within ten days prior to the auction and
91 shall be made at the expense of the owner.

92 (b) Any equine presented for public auction in this state shall have a
93 certificate indicating a negative reaction to a [coggins] Coggins test
94 which shall be obtained within sixty days prior to such auction.

95 (c) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be fined
96 not less than one hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars for
97 each violation.

98 Sec. 5. Section 22-415a of the general statutes is repealed and the
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

100 As used in sections [22-415a] 22-410 to 22-415j, inclusive:

101 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

102 (2) "Equine" means any member of the equine family which includes
103 horses, ponies, mules, asses, donkeys and zebras;

104 (3) "Equine infectious anemia" means a disease of equines caused by
105 an infectious virus which may be spread by blood-sucking insects,
106 unsterile surgical instruments and community use of equipment that
107 may produce cuts or abrasions and which may cause an equine to test
108 positive to an official test;

109 (4) "Licensed veterinarian" means a veterinarian who is licensed
110 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 384;

111 (5) "Official test" means a serological test for equine infectious anemia
112 that is (A) approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
113 of the United States Department of Agriculture, (B) conducted in a
114 laboratory approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, and (C)
115 administered by a licensed veterinarian, state veterinarian, or full-time
116 employee with the state Department of Agriculture;

117 (6) "Reactor" means an equine whose blood serum reacts positively
118 to an official test for equine infectious anemia;

119 (7) "Freeze-brand" means a metal brand which produces a permanent
120 mark with a configuration of 16A that is three inches in height and is
121 applied to the left neck or shoulder area of any equine that is positive to
122 the equine infectious anemia test in such a manner that the brand is
123 obvious and not obscured by a mane;

124 (8) "Isolation" means no biological contact with another equine;

125 (9) "Coggins test" means an official test for equine infectious anemia.

126 Sec. 6. Section 22-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the
127 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

128 The State Entomologist shall, to such extent as he or she deems
129 necessary or expedient, examine apiaries and quarantine such as are
130 diseased, harboring insects, mites or parasitic organisms adversely

131 affecting bees or species or subspecies of bees, which have been
132 determined by the State Entomologist to cause harm, directly or
133 indirectly, to the bee population, crops or other plants and treat or
134 destroy cases of the disease known as foul brood, insects, mites or
135 parasitic organisms adversely affecting bees or species or subspecies of
136 bees, which have been determined by the State Entomologist to cause
137 harm, directly or indirectly, to the bee population, crops or other plants.
138 The State Entomologist may appoint such inspectors as he or she deems
139 necessary or expedient, and he or she or any person whom he or she
140 appoints for that purpose shall have access at reasonable times to any
141 apiary or place where bees are kept or where honeycomb and appliances
142 are stored. [Any person appointed for such purpose shall possess all the
143 qualifications for an Agricultural Research Technician II employed by
144 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and have either five or
145 more years of beekeeping experience or a minimum of three years of
146 experience as a bee inspector at the federal or state level.] The State
147 Entomologist is authorized to make suitable regulations regarding
148 inspections and quarantine and to prescribe suitable forms for
149 permanent records, which shall be on file and open to public inspection,
150 and to make reasonable rules for the services of such inspectors, and
151 may pay a reasonable sum for such services. No person or corporation
152 shall remove bees under quarantine to another locality without
153 obtaining the written permission of an authorized inspector. No person
154 or transportation company shall receive for transportation any colony
155 or package of bees, unless such colony or package is accompanied by a
156 certificate of good health, furnished by an authorized inspector. No
157 person or transportation company shall deliver any colony or package
158 of bees brought from any other country, province, state or territory
159 unless accompanied by a certificate of health furnished by an authorized
160 inspector of such country, province, state or territory. Any person or
161 transportation company receiving a shipment of bees from without the
162 state, unaccompanied by such certificate, shall, before delivering such
163 shipment to its consignee, notify the State Entomologist and hold such
164 shipment until inspected by an authorized inspector. If contagious
165 diseases, insects, mites or parasitic organisms adversely affecting bees

166 or species or subspecies of bees, which have been determined by the
167 State Entomologist to cause harm, directly or indirectly, to the bee
168 population, crops or other plants are found therein, such shipment shall
169 be returned to the consignor or delivered to an authorized inspector of
170 this state for treatment or destruction, provided the requirements of this
171 section shall not apply to shipments of brood comb, with or without
172 bees, suspected of being diseased and consigned to the State
173 Entomologist, the agricultural experiment station or any authorized
174 apiary inspector of the state or to the Bureau of Entomology of the
175 United States or the United States Department of Agriculture, and
176 provided there shall be no destruction of any shipment of bees as herein
177 provided in the absence of reasonable notice to the consignee thereof.
178 No person shall resist or hinder the State Entomologist, or any inspector
179 whom he or she appoints, in the performance of the duties imposed by
180 this section. No person or corporation shall sell, to be removed to
181 another location, bees, brood comb, frames or hives that have been in
182 use, with or without combs, until they have been inspected by an
183 authorized inspector, who shall issue a certificate of health if they are
184 found free of contagious disease, insects, mites or parasitic organisms
185 adversely affecting bees or species or subspecies of bees, which have
186 been determined by the State Entomologist to cause harm, directly or
187 indirectly, to the bee population, crops or other plants. Any person
188 violating any provision of this section shall be fined not more than one
189 hundred dollars for a first violation, three hundred dollars for a second
190 violation and five hundred dollars for a third and any subsequent
191 violation.

192 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 22-131 of the general statutes is
193 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
194 *passage*):

195 (a) In accordance with section 4-9a, the Governor, [with the advice
196 and consent of either house of the General Assembly,] shall appoint
197 eight electors of the state, two of whom are actively engaged in the sale
198 and distribution of milk, two of whom are actively engaged in the
199 processing of milk, two of whom have no active or financial interest in

200 the production or sale of milk, and two of whom are actively engaged
201 in the production of milk, which eight electors, with the Commissioner
202 of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, and the Commissioner
203 of Agriculture, shall constitute the Milk Regulation Board. The
204 Governor, for cause, after a public hearing, may remove any appointed
205 member of the board.

206 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Insurance Commissioner, in
207 consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall conduct a
208 feasibility study for establishing a captive insurance company to
209 provide financial assistance to farmers in this state who are impacted by
210 the effects of severe weather.

211 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Insurance Commissioner shall
212 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
213 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
214 having cognizance of matters relating to insurance on any
215 recommendations concerning the establishment of a captive insurance
216 company to provide financial assistance to farmers in this state who are
217 impacted by the effects of severe weather.

218 Sec. 9. Section 22-339b of the general statutes is repealed and the
219 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

220 (a) Any owner or keeper of a dog or cat [of the age of three months or
221 older] that is not less than twelve weeks of age, or the vaccine
222 manufacturer's recommended age as approved by the United States
223 Department of Agriculture, shall have such dog or cat vaccinated
224 against rabies, provided such vaccination shall occur prior to fourteen
225 weeks of age for such dog or cat. Any animal vaccinated prior to one
226 year of age or receiving a primary rabies vaccine at any age shall be
227 considered protected for only one year and shall be given a booster
228 vaccination one year after the initial vaccination and shall be vaccinated
229 at least every three years thereafter. Those animals revaccinated after
230 one year of age shall be given booster vaccinations at least every three
231 years thereafter. Proof of vaccination shall be a certificate issued by a

232 licensed veterinarian in accordance with subsection (a) of section 22-
233 339c. A licensed veterinarian, upon request of the Chief Animal Control
234 Officer, any animal control officer, municipal animal control officer or
235 regional animal control officer shall submit to such officer a copy of such
236 certificate and any associated rabies vaccination records for such dog or
237 cat that has bitten a person or another animal.

238 (b) The State Veterinarian or the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the
239 commissioner's designee, may grant an exemption from vaccination
240 against rabies for a dog or cat if a licensed veterinarian has examined
241 such animal and determined that a rabies vaccination would endanger
242 the animal's life due to disease or other medical considerations. Such
243 exemption may be granted for an individual animal only after the
244 veterinarian has consulted with the State Veterinarian, the
245 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, and
246 completed and submitted to the department an application for
247 exemption from rabies vaccination on a form approved by the
248 Department of Agriculture. After approval of such exemption, the
249 department shall issue a rabies vaccination exemption certificate, copies
250 of which shall be provided to the veterinarian, the owner of the dog or
251 cat exempted from rabies vaccination and the animal control officer of
252 the municipality in which the owner of the dog or cat resides.
253 Certification that a dog or cat is exempt from rabies vaccination shall be
254 valid for one year, after which time the animal shall be vaccinated
255 against rabies or the application for exemption shall be renewed.

256 (c) Any veterinarian aggrieved by a denial of a request for an
257 exemption from rabies vaccination by the State Veterinarian, the
258 Commissioner of Agriculture or the commissioner's designee may
259 appeal such denial as provided in the Uniform Administrative
260 Procedure Act, sections 4-166 to 4-189, inclusive.

261 (d) Any violation of this section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-327
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-367
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-380f(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-413
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-415a
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-90
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-131(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-339b

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 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Insurance Dept.	IF - Cost	50,000	None
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$25,000

Note: GF=General Fund; IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential General Fund revenue gain of up to \$25,000 per year, beginning in FY 25, from requiring businesses to get separate commercial kennel, grooming facility, and training facility licenses from the Department of Agriculture. The annual revenue gain will be dependent on the number of licensed commercial kennels that are also engaged in the business of grooming or training that will need to obtain a separate license for these operations.

The bill also requires the Insurance Department (DOI) to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a captive insurance company to assist farmers impacted by severe weather. This results in an Insurance Fund cost of approximately \$50,000 in FY 25 for DOI to hire an actuarial firm with expertise in catastrophe modeling to conduct the study and produce a report by January 1, 2025. DOI does not have the capacity to do the study internally.

The other provisions of the bill make modifications to current statutes that are not anticipated to result in a state or municipal fiscal impact.

House "A" added the requirement that the (DOI) conduct a feasibility

study for establishing a captive insurance company to assist farmers, which results in an Insurance Fund cost of approximately \$50,000 in FY 25 as described above.

House "A" also modifies the age when a dog or cat must be vaccinated against rabies, which is not expected to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue subject the number of businesses applying annually for multiple licenses.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5223 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO AGRICULTURE RELATED STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes numerous unrelated changes to agriculture-related statutes. It primarily does the following:

1. requires businesses to get separate commercial kennel, grooming facility, and training facility licenses from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) by removing current exemptions in the definitions of grooming facility and training facility;
2. specifies that a grooming facility, which is a place maintained to groom dogs, includes a vehicle or trailer used for a dog grooming business;
3. removes the requirement that the governor's eight appointees to the Milk Regulation Board (which is responsible for adopting regulations on the sale and production of milk and milk products) be confirmed by either General Assembly chamber, allowing them to be seated without legislative review;
4. allows a municipal pound to use a voucher from the Animal Population Control Program (see BACKGROUND) to get any dog or cat, rather than only ones with pyometra, sterilized and vaccinated before the animal is purchased or adopted from the pound;
5. removes a requirement that the state veterinarian sign a health certificate that a state-licensed veterinarian issues for an equine

- (e.g., horse) being brought to public auction and defines “Coggins test” as the official test for equine infectious anemia (for which equines being auctioned must test negative by law);
6. removes the minimum qualifications for a person to be appointed by the state entomologist as an apiary inspector; and
 7. specifies that dogs and cats that must receive a rabies vaccination (i.e., those at least 12 weeks of age or the vaccine manufacturer’s recommended age as approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rather than at least three months old as under current law) must be vaccinated before the animal is 14 weeks old.

Additionally, the bill requires the insurance commissioner, in consultation with the agriculture commissioner, to study the feasibility of establishing a captive insurance company to provide financial help to farmers in Connecticut who are impacted by severe weather. The insurance commissioner must report recommendations to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee by January 1, 2025.

The bill also makes technical changes.

*House Amendment “A” adds provisions on (1) rabies vaccinations and (2) a farmers captive insurance study.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — COMMERCIAL KENNEL, GROOMING, AND TRAINING SERVICES

By removing the exemption for commercial kennels from the definitions of “grooming facility” and “training facility” and removing the exemption for grooming facilities from the definition of “training facility,” the bill requires a business to get a license from DoAg for each activity it conducts. Correspondingly, it requires the business to comply with the statutory requirements for each license type as a separate entity. Under current law, commercial kennels that also groom or train

dogs, and grooming facilities that also train dogs, are exempt from the additional licensure requirements.

By law, a commercial kennel license costs \$400. Grooming facility and training facility licenses cost \$200 each. Each license expires the December 31st following its issuance and may be renewed every two years. Licensees must comply with state regulations on sanitation, disease, humane treatment of animals, and public safety as well as municipal zoning regulations (CGS § 22-344).

§ 6 — APIARY INSPECTOR

The bill removes the minimum qualifications for an apiary inspector. Under current law, to be appointed as an inspector by the state entomologist, a person must meet the qualifications of an Agricultural Research Technician II at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and have at least five years of beekeeping experience or three years of experience as a bee inspector.

BACKGROUND

Animal Population Control Program Vouchers

By law, municipal pounds cannot sell or give away an unspayed or unneutered dog or cat unless the person buying or adopting the animal pays \$45 for a spay and neuter voucher. The person can redeem the voucher at a participating veterinarian for sterilization and vaccination services, or the pound can arrange for the services before releasing the animal. If the veterinarian determines the animal is medically unfit for sterilization, the person may apply to DoAg for a refund.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/08/2024)