

# Environment Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5015

AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPIN-OFF COMPANIES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE

**Title:** CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

**Vote Date:** 2/19/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 1/31/2025

**File No.:** 39

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### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment Committee

### **CO-SPONNSORS:**

Rep. Gresko, 121st Dist.

Rep. O'Dea, 125th Dist.

Rep. Dillon, 92nd Dist.

Rep. Bumgardner, 41st Dist.

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill seeks to allow scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to receive licenses and patents as well as create startup companies that emerge from their research and discoveries. Scientists at other public universities in Connecticut are already able to receive licenses and patents as well as create startup companies.

Previous legislation has already allowed scientists at CAES to license and patent their work. This legislation would expand on that legislation and allow them to create startup companies as well, which would finish the process of creating equality in what is permitted for scientists at CAES and what is permitted for the scientists at public universities in Connecticut. This would help CAES retain talent, and since it would allow CAES employees to start companies, it could have extensive economic benefits, such as creating new jobs.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Jason White, Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

Director White submitted testimony in Support of the bill. He wrote about how the bill would create equality between research scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and allow them to commercialize their discoveries in the same way that scientists at other public universities in Connecticut are already permitted to.

Director White noted that there are portions of the bill that have already been passed (specifically those authorizing patents and licensing of discoveries and inventions). The new section being proposed would allow the research scientists at CAES to create start up companies that capitalize on their inventions and discoveries (which scientists at public universities in Connecticut are already allowed to do).

He pointed out that if the scientists at CAES are not able to capitalize on their discoveries it will make it difficult for them to retain talent. He also noted that when scientists create new companies, there is a potential for them to generate new jobs and revenue that will have a positive impact on Connecticut's economy and workforce.

Dr. White concluded by suggesting that the title of the bill be changed to "An act authorizing inventions, discoveries, and start-up companies for employees of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station."

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Lauren Kaiser Krause**

**Date: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**