



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. **611**

LCO No. 2854



Referred to Committee on

ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-38a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 The Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish and administer a
4 program to promote the marketing of farm products grown and
5 produced in Connecticut for the purpose of encouraging the
6 development of agriculture in the state. The commissioner may, within
7 available appropriations, provide a grant-in-aid to any person, firm,
8 partnership or corporation engaged in the promotion and marketing of
9 such farm products, provided the words "CONNECTICUT-GROWN"
10 or "CT-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and
11 marketing activities. The commissioner shall (1) contract with a public
12 relations or advertising firm to design, plan and implement a
13 multiyear, state-wide marketing and advertising campaign, including,
14 but not limited to, television and radio advertisements, promoting the
15 availability of, and advantages of purchasing, Connecticut-grown farm
16 products, (2) establish and continuously update a web site connected

LCO No. 2854

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CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SECTION

17 with such advertising campaign that includes, but is not limited to, a
 18 comprehensive listing of Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own
 19 farms, roadside and on-farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers
 20 and nurseries selling predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural
 21 products and agri-tourism events and attractions, and (3) conduct
 22 efforts to promote interaction and business relationships between
 23 farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and
 24 other potential institutional purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm
 25 products, including, but not limited to, (A) linking farmers and
 26 potential purchasers through a separate feature of the web site
 27 established pursuant to this section, and (B) organizing state-wide or
 28 regional events promoting Connecticut-grown farm products, where
 29 farmers and potential institutional customers are invited to participate.
 30 The commissioner shall use his best efforts to solicit cooperation and
 31 participation from the farm, corporate, retail, wholesale and grocery
 32 communities in such advertising, Internet-related and event planning
 33 efforts, including, but not limited to, soliciting private sector matching
 34 funds. The commissioner shall use all of the funds provided to the
 35 Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 4-66aa for the purposes
 36 of this section. The commissioner shall report annually to the joint
 37 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 38 matters relating to the environment on issues with respect to efforts
 39 undertaken pursuant to the requirements of this section, including, but
 40 not limited to, the amount of private matching funds received and
 41 expended by the department. The commissioner may adopt, in
 42 accordance with chapter 54, such regulations as he deems necessary to
 43 carry out the purposes of this section.

44 Sec. 2. Section 22-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
 45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

46 There shall be an expand and grow Connecticut agriculture account,
 47 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General
 48 Fund. Funds received pursuant to section 26-194 and section 22-38a, as
 49 amended by this act, shall be deposited into said account. The

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Raised Bill No.

50 Commissioner of Agriculture [may] shall make payments from said
51 account to fund the programs established in [section] sections 22-38a,
52 as amended by this act, and 22-38b.

53 Sec. 3. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of three hundred thousand
54 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, from the
55 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to the expand
56 and grow Connecticut agriculture account pursuant to section 22-38c
57 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

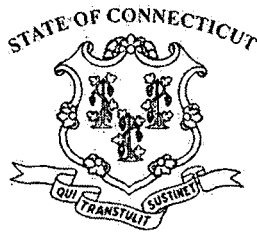
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<u>July 1, 2006</u>	22-38a
Sec. 2	<u>July 1, 2006</u>	22-38c
Sec. 3	<u>July 1, 2006</u>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To expand and grow Connecticut agriculture.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
SECTION



CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 611

February Session, 2006



AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-38a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

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4 program to promote the marketing of farm products grown and
5 produced in Connecticut for the purpose of encouraging the
6 development of agriculture in the state. The commissioner may, within
7 available appropriations, provide a grant-in-aid to any person, firm,
8 partnership or corporation engaged in the promotion and marketing of
9 such farm products, provided the words "CONNECTICUT-GROWN"
10 or "CT-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and
11 marketing activities. The commissioner shall (1) contract with a public
12 relations or advertising firm to design, plan and implement a
13 multiyear, state-wide marketing and advertising campaign, including,
14 but not limited to, television and radio advertisements, promoting the
15 availability of, and advantages of purchasing, Connecticut-grown farm
16 products, (2) establish and continuously update a web site connected
17 with such advertising campaign that includes, but is not limited to, a
18 comprehensive listing of Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own
19 farms, roadside and on-farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers

20 and nurseries selling predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural
21 products and agri-tourism events and attractions, and (3) conduct
22 efforts to promote interaction and business relationships between
23 farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and
24 other potential institutional purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm
25 products, including, but not limited to, (A) linking farmers and
26 potential purchasers through a separate feature of the web site
27 established pursuant to this section, and (B) organizing state-wide or
28 regional events promoting Connecticut-grown farm products, where
29 farmers and potential institutional customers are invited to participate.
30 The commissioner shall use his best efforts to solicit cooperation and
31 participation from the farm, corporate, retail, wholesale and grocery
32 communities in such advertising, Internet-related and event planning
33 efforts, including, but not limited to, soliciting private sector matching
34 funds. The commissioner shall use all of the funds provided to the
35 Department of Agriculture pursuant to subparagraph (C) of
36 subdivision (4) of section 4-66aa of the 2006 supplement to the general
37 statutes for the purposes of this section. The commissioner shall report
38 annually to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
39 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on issues
40 with respect to efforts undertaken pursuant to the requirements of this
41 section, including, but not limited to, the amount of private matching
42 funds received and expended by the department. The commissioner
43 may adopt, in accordance with chapter 54, such regulations as he
44 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

45 Sec. 2. Section 22-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

47 There shall be an expand and grow Connecticut agriculture account,
48 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General
49 Fund. Funds received pursuant to section 26-194 and section 22-38a, as
50 amended by this act, shall be deposited into said account. The
51 Commissioner of Agriculture [may] shall make payments from said
52 account to fund the programs established in [section] sections 22-38a,
53 as amended by this act, and 22-38b.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a Forest,
55 Parks, Tourism and Historical task force to determine the feasibility of
56 transferring the management of state forest land and state parks from
57 the Department of Environmental Protection to a new and
58 independent commission or agency.

59 (b) The task force shall be comprised of seventeen members who are
60 knowledgeable about state parks, forests, tourism and historic entities
61 to be appointed as follows: Three by the Governor, three by the
62 president pro tempore of the Senate, three by the speaker of the House
63 of Representatives, two by the majority leader of the Senate, two by the
64 majority leader of the House of Representatives, two by the minority
65 leader of the Senate and two by the minority leader of the House of
66 Representatives. Members of the task force shall receive no
67 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any
68 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

69 (c) The task force may request and may receive cooperation and
70 assistance in the performance of its duties from any federal, state or
71 local agency or from any private citizen or entity, including the
72 temporary assignment of personnel which may be necessary to carry
73 out the performance of its functions and may exchange information
74 and personnel with agencies of the state with reference to issues of
75 mutual concern.

76 (d) The task force shall determine if the transfer of management of
77 state forest land and state parks from the Department of
78 Environmental Protection to a new independent commission or agency
79 would financially benefit the state and, if so, how such financial
80 benefits would support: (1) Increased staff levels to maintain state
81 forest land and state parks, (2) a newly created commission or agency,
82 and (3) tourism and historic entities.

83 (e) In considering whether to recommend the creation of a new
84 commission or agency, the task force shall explore the benefit of
85 locating such commission or agency within the Department of

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86 Environmental Protection for administrative purposes only, including
87 transferring existing forestry staff. Such staff would manage increased,
88 sustainable harvesting of state forest land and state park resources.
89 The task force shall explore the benefit of removing jurisdiction over
90 tourism and historic matters from the Connecticut Commission on
91 Culture and Tourism and placing jurisdiction over such matters with a
92 newly formed commission or agency and utilizing available funding
93 to, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, expand
94 agricultural tourism in the state.

95 (f) The task force shall determine the ability of the state to realize
96 economic gain through enhanced, sustainable management of state
97 forest land, including, but not limited to, determining: (1) The amount
98 of state forest land available for harvest; (2) additional markets that
99 may be explored, such as the creation of cellulose ethanol through the
100 conversion of waste wood into wood alcohol and fuel for motor
101 vehicles; (3) the feasibility of commission or agency collaboration with
102 nonprofit land conservation organizations and private land owners; (4)
103 the ability to meet or exceed recommendations of the Council on
104 Environmental Quality; and (5) the feasibility of special projects,
105 including, but not limited to, planting Christmas trees in the medians
106 of state highways and harvesting and selling such trees when they
107 mature.

108 (g) Not later than January 1, 2007, the task force shall submit a
109 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
110 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
111 relating to state parks and forests, in accordance with the provisions of
112 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
113 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2007, whichever is
114 later.

115 Sec. 4. (Effective July 1, 2006) The sum of three hundred thousand
116 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, from the
117 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to the expand
118 and grow Connecticut agriculture account pursuant to section 22-38c

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119 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2006	22-38a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2006	22-38c
Sec. 3	from passage	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2006	New section

ENV

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SENATE

SSB
611

Thomas P. Skudis

MAR 24 2006

FAVORABLE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON ENVIRONMENT

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

ON APPROPRIATIONS



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 531

February Session, 2006

Substitute Senate Bill No. 611

Senate, April 18, 2006

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS.

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2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

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4 program to promote the marketing of farm products grown and
5 produced in Connecticut for the purpose of encouraging the
6 development of agriculture in the state. The commissioner may, within
7 available appropriations, provide a grant-in-aid to any person, firm,
8 partnership or corporation engaged in the promotion and marketing of
9 such farm products, provided the words "CONNECTICUT-GROWN"
10 or "CT-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and
11 marketing activities. The commissioner shall (1) contract with a public
12 relations or advertising firm to design, plan and implement a
13 multiyear, state-wide marketing and advertising campaign, including,
14 but not limited to, television and radio advertisements, promoting the

15 availability of, and advantages of purchasing, Connecticut-grown farm
16 products, (2) establish and continuously update a web site connected
17 with such advertising campaign that includes, but is not limited to, a
18 comprehensive listing of Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own
19 farms, roadside and on-farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers
20 and nurseries selling predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural
21 products and agri-tourism events and attractions, and (3) conduct
22 efforts to promote interaction and business relationships between
23 farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and
24 other potential institutional purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm
25 products, including, but not limited to, (A) linking farmers and
26 potential purchasers through a separate feature of the web site
27 established pursuant to this section, and (B) organizing state-wide or
28 regional events promoting Connecticut-grown farm products, where
29 farmers and potential institutional customers are invited to participate.
30 The commissioner shall use his best efforts to solicit cooperation and
31 participation from the farm, corporate, retail, wholesale and grocery
32 communities in such advertising, Internet-related and event planning
33 efforts, including, but not limited to, soliciting private sector matching
34 funds. The commissioner shall use all of the funds provided to the
35 Department of Agriculture pursuant to subparagraph (C) of
36 subdivision (4) of section 4-66aa of the 2006 supplement to the general
37 statutes for the purposes of this section. The commissioner shall report
38 annually to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
39 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on issues
40 with respect to efforts undertaken pursuant to the requirements of this
41 section, including, but not limited to, the amount of private matching
42 funds received and expended by the department. The commissioner
43 may adopt, in accordance with chapter 54, such regulations as he
44 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

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48 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General

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49 Fund. Funds received pursuant to section 26-194 and section 22-38a, as
50 amended by this act, shall be deposited into said account. The
51 Commissioner of Agriculture [may] shall make payments from said
52 account to fund the programs established in [section] sections 22-38a,
53 as amended by this act, and 22-38b.

54 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Forest, Parks,
55 Tourism and Historical task force to determine the feasibility of
56 transferring the management of state forest land and state parks from
57 the Department of Environmental Protection to a new and
58 independent commission or agency.

59 (b) The task force shall be comprised of seventeen members who are
60 knowledgeable about state parks, forests, tourism and historic entities
61 to be appointed as follows: Three by the Governor, three by the
62 president pro tempore of the Senate, three by the speaker of the House
63 of Representatives, two by the majority leader of the Senate, two by the
64 majority leader of the House of Representatives, two by the minority
65 leader of the Senate and two by the minority leader of the House of
66 Representatives. Members of the task force shall receive no
67 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any
68 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

69 (c) The task force may request and may receive cooperation and
70 assistance in the performance of its duties from any federal, state or
71 local agency or from any private citizen or entity, including the
72 temporary assignment of personnel which may be necessary to carry
73 out the performance of its functions and may exchange information
74 and personnel with agencies of the state with reference to issues of
75 mutual concern.

76 (d) The task force shall determine if the transfer of management of
77 state forest land and state parks from the Department of
78 Environmental Protection to a new independent commission or agency
79 would financially benefit the state and, if so, how such financial
80 benefits would support: (1) Increased staff levels to maintain state
81 forest land and state parks, (2) a newly created commission or agency,

82 and (3) tourism and historic entities.

83 (e) In considering whether to recommend the creation of a new
84 commission or agency, the task force shall explore the benefit of
85 locating such commission or agency within the Department of
86 Environmental Protection for administrative purposes only, including
87 transferring existing forestry staff. Such staff would manage increased,
88 sustainable harvesting of state forest land and state park resources.
89 The task force shall explore the benefit of removing jurisdiction over
90 tourism and historic matters from the Connecticut Commission on
91 Culture and Tourism and placing jurisdiction over such matters with a
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95 (f) The task force shall determine the ability of the state to realize
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97 forest land, including, but not limited to, determining: (1) The amount
98 of state forest land available for harvest; (2) additional markets that
99 may be explored, such as the creation of cellulose ethanol through the
100 conversion of waste wood into wood alcohol and fuel for motor
101 vehicles; (3) the feasibility of commission or agency collaboration with
102 nonprofit land conservation organizations and private land owners; (4)
103 the ability to meet or exceed recommendations of the Council on
104 Environmental Quality; and (5) the feasibility of special projects,
105 including, but not limited to, planting Christmas trees in the medians
106 of state highways and harvesting and selling such trees when they
107 mature.

108 (g) Not later than January 1, 2007, the task force shall submit a
109 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
110 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
111 relating to state parks and forests, in accordance with the provisions of
112 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
113 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2007, whichever is
114 later.

(706)

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	22-38a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	22-38c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
SECTION

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to contract with a public relations or advertising firm to design, plan and implement a marketing/ad campaign for Connecticut grown products, establish and update a web site, conduct efforts to promote interaction and business relationships between farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias and others as outlined in the bill. With the exception of contracting with a firm, the DOA already undertakes a majority of the work required within their existing budgetary resources. sHB 5007, the Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, provides an additional \$300,000 for these purposes. The bill also requires that DOA use \$100,000 of the funds collected under the \$30 recording fee that is deposited into the land protection, affordable housing, and historic preservation account to encourage the sale of CT Grown. In addition, the bill provides that these funds as well as any funds solicited for these purposes be deposited into the expand and grow account. The expand and grow account is capitalized with 75% of a 40 cent per linear foot fee on certain facilities that cross any grounds of the Sound within the state's jurisdiction. These revenues can currently be used for the CT Grown program. Annual DOA revenues from this account are estimated at \$90,000.

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The bill establishes a Forest, Parks, Tourism, and Historical Task Force, to the extent that legislators serve on the task force Legislative Management may incur minimal costs for the legislator mileage reimbursement (currently 44.5 cents per mile), these costs are part of the normal budgetary resources of the agency. The bill specifies that members of the task force receive no compensation, thus there is no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 611*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner to undertake a marketing campaign, including television and radio advertisements, and establish a website to promote Connecticut-grown farm products. The commissioner must use document recording and Long Island Sound crossing fees established by law and seek private matching funds for these purposes.

The bill establishes a Forest, Parks, Tourism and Historical Task Force to determine the feasibility of transferring the state forest land and state parks management from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to a new and independent commission or agency. The governor and legislative leaders appoint the 17-member task force and those members must be knowledgeable about state parks, forests, tourism, and historic entities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006 except for the task force provision, which is effective upon passage.

PROMOTION OF CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE***Marketing and Advertising***

By law, the agriculture commissioner must establish and administer a program to market farm products grown and produced in Connecticut to encourage state agricultural development. The commissioner may provide grants to anyone engaged in promoting and marketing these farm products, provided the words "Connecticut-Grown" are clearly incorporated in such promotional and marketing activities. The bill adds "CT-Grown."

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Under the bill, the commissioner must also contract with a public relations or advertising firm to design, plan, and implement a multiyear, statewide marketing and advertising campaign. The campaign includes television and radio advertisements and promoting the availability and advantages of purchasing Connecticut-grown farm products.

Website

Under the bill, the commissioner must establish and continuously update a web site connected with the advertising campaign. The website must include a comprehensive listing of Connecticut farmers' markets, pick-your-own farms, roadside and on-farm markets, farm wineries, garden centers and nurseries selling predominantly Connecticut-grown horticultural products, and agri-tourism events and attractions.

Additional Duties

The commissioner must promote business relationships and interaction between farmers and restaurants, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias, and other potential institutional purchasers of Connecticut-grown farm products. This includes (1) linking farmers and potential purchasers through a separate feature of the web site the bill establishes and (2) organizing statewide or regional events promoting Connecticut-grown farm products, where farmers and potential institutional customers are invited to participate.

The commissioner must, to the best of his ability, solicit cooperation and participation from the farm, corporate, retail, wholesale, and grocery communities in advertising, Internet-related, and event planning efforts, including soliciting private sector matching funds.

Funding

The agriculture commissioner must use \$100,000 of the funds collected from the \$30 recording fee established by PA 05-228 for marketing. Under current law, the commissioner must use that amount for encouraging the sale of Connecticut-Grown food to school,

restaurants, retailers, and other state businesses and institutions.

The commissioner must deposit the recording fee money into the expand and grow Connecticut agriculture account, which, by law, is already funded by money he receives from a Long Island Sound crossing fee. By law, the expand and grow Connecticut agriculture account, is a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund that is funded from 75% of an annual fee the agriculture commissioner imposes of 40 cents per linear foot on the owner of certain facilities that cross any grounds of the Sound within Connecticut's jurisdiction.

Under the bill, the commissioner must make payments from the account to fund the marketing and advertising campaign and the bill's other requirements and the existing Connecticut-Grown program. He also must seek private matching funds. Current law allows the commissioner to use the Long Island Sound crossing fees for the Connecticut-Grown program.

Report

The commissioner must report annually to the Environment Committee on issues with respect to the bill's requirements, including the amount of private matching funds received and expended by the department. By law, the commissioner may adopt regulations as necessary to carry out the Connecticut-Grown program.

TASK FORCE

The bill establishes a Forest, Parks, Tourism, and Historical Task Force to determine the feasibility of transferring state forest land and state parks management from DEP to a new, independent commission or agency.

Members

Under the bill, the 17-member task force is comprised of people knowledgeable about state parks, forests, tourism, and historic entities. The governor, Senate president pro tempore, and House speaker each appoint three members, and the majority and minority leaders of both chambers each appoint two. Task force members receive no

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compensation, but are reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Duties

The task force must determine if transferring management of state forest land and parks from DEP to a new commission or agency would financially benefit the state and, if so, how it would support (1) itself, (2) increased staff levels to maintain state forest land and state parks, and (3) tourism and historic entities.

The task force must explore the benefit of locating a new commission or agency within the DEP for administrative purposes only, including transferring existing forestry staff, in considering whether to recommend the creation of a new entity.

The task force must explore the benefits of removing the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's jurisdiction over tourism and historic matters and placing it with a newly formed entity. The task force must utilize available funding and work with the Agriculture Department to expand state agricultural tourism.

The task force must determine the state's ability to realize economic gain through enhanced, sustainable state forest land management, including:

1. the amount of state forest land available for harvesting wood;
2. additional markets that may be explored, such as the creation of cellulose ethanol through the conversion of waste wood into wood alcohol and fuel for motor vehicles;
3. the feasibility of commission or agency collaboration with nonprofit land conservation organizations and private land owners;
4. the ability to meet or exceed recommendations of the Council on Environmental Quality; and

5. the feasibility of special projects, including, but not limited to, planting Christmas trees in the medians of state highways and harvesting and selling such trees when they mature.

By January 1, 2007, the task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee. The task force terminates on the date that it submits the report or January 1, 2007, whichever is later.

Assistance

The task force may request cooperation from and be assisted by any federal, state, or local agency or any private citizen or entity in performing its duties. Assistance may include the temporary assignment of personnel necessary to carry out the performance of its functions. The task force also may exchange information and personnel with state agencies concerning issues of mutual concern.

BACKGROUND***Connecticut-Grown***

By law, only farm products grown and eggs produced in Connecticut can be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Connecticut-Grown." Farm products grown and eggs produced in Connecticut may also be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native," "Native-Grown," "Local," or "Locally-Grown."

However, farm products grown and eggs produced within a 10-mile radius of the point of sale (i.e., at out-of-state farms near the border) may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native," "Native-Grown," "Local," or "Locally-Grown." Any person, firm, partnership, or corporation advertising farm products with any of these designations is required to prove that their products meet the requirements if the agriculture commissioner requests it. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$25 for each violation (CGS § 22-38).

RELATED BILLS

SB 294 (File 134) requires farmers who sell products at an

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authorized farmers' market kiosk to get and maintain any required license to sell the products and comply with state regulations on the sale of farm products on a farm.

SB 375 establishes a farm to school program within the Agriculture Department and the Department of Education (DOE). The departments, in consultation with one another, must facilitate and promote the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products by farms to school districts, individual schools, and other educational institutions under DOE's jurisdiction. The Appropriations Committee favorably reported it on April 4, 2006.

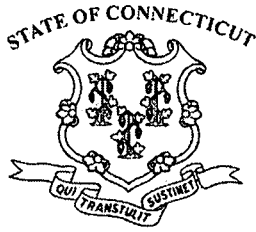
COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/20/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 53 Nay 0 (03/31/2006)



General Assembly

(SENATE) Amendment

February Session, 2006

LCO No. 5751



Offered by:

SEN. RORABACK, 30th Dist.

SEN. HERLIHY, 8th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 611

File No. 531

Cal. No. 396

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 4-30a of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2007*):

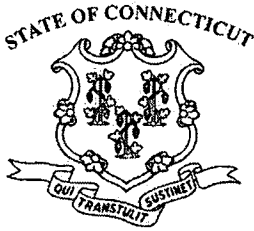
6 (a) After the accounts for the General Fund have been closed for
7 each fiscal year and the Comptroller has determined the amount of
8 unappropriated surplus in said fund, after any amounts required by
9 provision of law to be transferred for other purposes have been
10 deducted, the amount of such surplus shall be transferred by the State
11 Treasurer as follows: (1) Three per cent to the Department of
12 Agriculture for the purchase or preservation of farmland, (2) seven per
13 cent to the Department of Environmental Protection for the purchase
14 or preservation of open space, and (3) ninety per cent to a special fund

15 to be known as the Budget Reserve Fund. When the amount in said
16 fund equals ten per cent of the net General Fund appropriations for the
17 fiscal year in progress, no further transfers shall be made by the
18 Treasurer to said fund and the amount of such surplus in excess of that
19 transferred to said fund shall be deemed to be appropriated to the
20 State Employees Retirement Fund, in addition to the contributions
21 required pursuant to section 5-156a, but not exceeding five per cent of
22 the unfunded past service liability of the system as set forth in the most
23 recent actuarial valuation certified by the Retirement Commission.
24 Such surplus in excess of the amounts transferred to the Departments
25 of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, the Budget Reserve
26 Fund and the state employees retirement system shall be deemed to be
27 appropriated for: (1) Redeeming prior to maturity any outstanding
28 indebtedness of the state selected by the Treasurer in the best interests
29 of the state; (2) purchasing outstanding indebtedness of the state in the
30 open market at such prices and on such terms and conditions as the
31 Treasurer shall determine to be in the best interests of the state for the
32 purpose of extinguishing or defeasing such debt; (3) providing for the
33 defeasance of any outstanding indebtedness of the state selected by the
34 Treasurer in the best interests of the state by irrevocably placing with
35 an escrow agent in trust an amount to be used solely for, and sufficient
36 to satisfy, scheduled payments of both interest and principal on such
37 indebtedness; or (4) any combination of these methods. Pending the
38 use or application of such amount for the payment of interest and
39 principal, such amount may be invested in (A) direct obligations of the
40 United States government, including state and local government
41 treasury securities that the United States Treasury issues specifically to
42 provide state and local governments with required cash flows at yields
43 that do not exceed Internal Revenue Service arbitrage limits, (B)
44 obligations guaranteed by the United States government, and (C)
45 securities backed by United States government obligations as collateral
46 and for which interest and principal payments on the collateral
47 generally flow immediately through to the security holder."

SENATE AMENDMENT

Calendar: 396
LCO: 5751
Bill: bill

ADOPTED voice REJECTED voice
ADOPTED roll REJECTED roll



General Assembly

[SENATE] Amendment

February Session, 2006

LCO No. 5590



Offered by:

SEN. FINCH, 22nd Dist.

REP. WILBER, 63rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 611

File No. 531

Cal. No. 396

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF CONNECTICUT-GROWN FARM PRODUCTS."

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- 1 Strike sections 1 and 2 in their entirety and renumber the remaining
 - 2 sections and internal references accordingly

SENATE AMENDMENT

Calendar: 396

LCO: 5590

Bill: 611

ADOPTED voice REJECTED voice

ADOPTED roll REJECTED roll