



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 5078

SB0006505078SD0

Offered by:

SEN. MEYER, 12th Dist.
SEN. CHAPIN, 30th Dist.
REP. GENTILE, 104th Dist.
REP. SHABAN, 135th Dist.
REP. MINER, 66th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 65

File No. 30

Cal. No. 55

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AS
"CONNECTICUT-GROWN" AND CERTIFICATION FOR
"CONNECTICUT-GROWN" MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS."**

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- 1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:
- 3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
4 farm winery task force to study Connecticut farm winery production
5 and any existing laws, regulations and policies governing both the
6 permitting of farm wineries and the sale of Connecticut farm winery
7 wines and brandies. The task force shall evaluate and make
8 recommendations concerning the following issues: (1) Any future
9 legislative action that may be necessary to increase the amount of
10 Connecticut-Grown grapes and fruit used in farm winery products, (2)
11 the type of wine grape and fruit cultivars that are best suited for

12 Connecticut's soils, topography and climate, (3) best practices for
13 cultivation of wine grape and fruit cultivars in Connecticut, including
14 management strategies for insects, diseases, weather and other
15 environmental factors, (4) minimum, maximum and average harvest
16 yields per plant and per acre for wine grape and fruit cultivars under
17 cultivation in Connecticut at various stages of maturity, (5) average
18 time for wine grapes and fruit to reach maturity from cutting and
19 planting to average harvest yields, (6) minimum, maximum and
20 average weight of wine grapes and fruit cultivars required per liter of
21 finished wine, (7) total percentage of Connecticut-Grown wine grapes
22 and fruit cultivars currently used in Connecticut farm winery
23 products, (8) reporting requirements for licensed Connecticut farm
24 wineries, (9) verification systems for evaluating compliance with and
25 enforcing statutes and regulations pertaining to licensed Connecticut
26 farm wineries, (10) existing state grants and programs that could be
27 used to increase production of Connecticut-Grown wine grapes and
28 fruit cultivars, including, but not limited to, Farmland Restoration and
29 Farm Transition grants, and (11) any other issue deemed appropriate
30 by the task force.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of the following nine members:

32 (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
33 designee;

34 (2) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the
35 commissioner's designee;

36 (3) The director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station,
37 or the director's designee;

38 (4) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
39 member of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council and one
40 of whom shall be a scientist with expertise in northern and cold-hardy
41 wine grape cultivation;

42 (5) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

43 shall be a wine expert and educator in good standing with the Society
44 of Wine Educators and who shall have expertise in northeast wines;

45 (6) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
46 who shall be a Connecticut viticulturist or wine grape grower;

47 (7) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
48 a Connecticut farm winery owner or operator who grows on the
49 premises of the farm winery, on property under the same ownership
50 and control of said permittee or leased by the backer of a farm winery
51 permit or by said permittee within the farm winery's principal state, an
52 average crop of fruit equal to not less than fifty per cent of the fruit
53 used in the manufacture of the farm winery permittee's wine; and

54 (8) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
55 Representatives, who shall be a Connecticut farm winery owner or
56 operator who grows on the premises of the farm winery or on property
57 under the same ownership and control of said permittee or leased by
58 the backer of a farm winery permit or by said permittee within the
59 farm winery's principal state, an average crop of fruit equal to not less
60 than twenty-five per cent and not more than fifty per cent of the fruit
61 used in the manufacture of the farm winery permittee's wine.

62 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
63 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
64 filled by the appointing authority.

65 (d) Five members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the
66 purpose of conducting business of the task force. The Commissioners
67 of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, or their designees, shall serve
68 as the cochairs of such task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the
69 first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
70 days after the effective date of this section. The administrative staff of
71 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
72 cognizance of matters relating to general law shall serve as
73 administrative staff of the task force.

74 (e) Not later than January 1, 2015, the task force shall submit a
75 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
76 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
77 relating to the environment and general law, in accordance with the
78 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall
79 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2015,
80 whichever is later."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	New section