General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 1497

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5138**

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMMING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-26f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be a State Veterinarian who shall be an employee of the Department of Agriculture and shall serve as the state animal health official for the state. The Commissioner of Agriculture may designate one or more veterinarians to exercise all or part of the authority, powers and duties of the State Veterinarian. **[**in the absence of the State Veterinarian.**]** Any veterinarian designated by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection shall meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 2. Section 22-111c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each brand and grade of fertilizer shall be registered in the name

of the person whose name appears on the label for such fertilizer before being distributed in this state. The application for registration shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy-five dollars. **[**On and after January 1, 2010, said**]** Said fee shall be established by the commissioner by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of section 22-111j, provided such fee does not exceed seventy-five dollars. The application shall include the following information: (1) The net weight; (2) the brand and grade; (3) the guaranteed analysis; and (4) the name and address of the registrant. Upon approval of the application by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. All registrations shall expire on June thirtieth of each year.

(b) A distributor shall not be required to register any fertilizer which is already registered under this chapter by another person, provided the label for such exempted fertilizer does not differ in any material respect to such previously registered fertilizer.

(c) A distributor shall not be required to register fertilizer formulated according to specifications which are furnished by a consumer prior to mixing; but shall be required to label such fertilizer as provided in subsection (c) of section 22-111d.

Sec. 3. Section 22-111bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person may distribute a soil amendment unless it has been registered with the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this section. An application for registration shall be submitted annually to the commissioner on the form furnished or approved by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee established by the Commissioner of Agriculture that shall not exceed seventy-five dollars. Upon approval of the application by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. Such registration shall

expire on September thirtieth of the following year. Each distributor shall submit to the commissioner a copy of labels and any advertising literature for each soil amendment with the registration application.

(b) A distributor shall not be required to register any brand of soil amendment that is already registered under this section by another person, providing the label does not differ in any respect.

(c) Before registering any soil amendment, the commissioner may require evidence to substantiate the claims made for the soil amendment and proof of the value and usefulness of the soil amendment.

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 22-341 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same at **[**a cost of five cents each**]** the cost incurred to procure and distribute such tags or plates, which cost shall be paid by the town on the approval of the town clerk. **[**Any balance of the moneys received by the commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller.**]** The design and the shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such tags or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to be an unlicensed dog.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The annual harvest season for the purpose of vehicles transporting agricultural products shall be year-round.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	22-26f(a)
Sec. 2	*from passage*	22-111c
Sec. 3	*from passage*	22-111bb
Sec. 4	*from passage*	22-341(b)
Sec. 5	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To streamline certain services at the Department of Agriculture while increasing access to such services.

[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.]