

PA13-39

HB6315

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 1
1 – 305**

**2013
INDEX**

CHAIRMEN: Senator Meyer
Representative Gentile

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Chapin, Maynard

REPRESENTATIVES:

Albis, Shaban, Case,
Backer, Bolinsky, Bowles,
Buck-Taylor, Davis,
Hennessy, Megna,
P.Miller, C. Miner, Mushinsky,
O'Dea, Ryan, Sampson, Sear,
Urban, Vicino, Wilis, Ziobron

SENATOR MEYER: Ladies and gentlemen. Can we come to order please? This is the Public Hearing of the Environment Committee. We have some 11 bills we're going to hear today. We thank your -- we thank you for your interest. Commissioner Reviczky you're lead off here. Nice to see you.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN K. REVICZKY: Good morning Chairman Gentile, Chairman Meyer, Vice-Chair Albis and ranking member Chapin. My name is Steve Reviczky. And I serve as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. I am here to testify on the Department's 2013 legislative agenda. Joining me this morning from the Department of Agriculture are George Kribda who serves as our Legislative Program Manager and Public Information Officer. Steve Anderson and Linda Petrowitz from the Office of the Commissioner, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Bruce Sherman, Director and Wane Cosegic Assistant Director of the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection.

Also joining me is David Carey, Director of the Bureau of Aquaculture and Jay Dipple who

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residents of the state on locally grown farm products by 2020 to not less than 5% of all monies spent by such residents on food. That's statutory language, not mine.

The proposed act would help Connecticut significantly in achieving that 5% goal by -- by 2020. Because many institutions serve thousands of meals each week, the incorporation of additional Connecticut grown products into their food service operations can translate into millions of additional dollars going -- going to Connecticut farmers related agricultural businesses and the state's economy overall.

Another department initiative is House Bill 6315, An Act Concerning the Resale of Dogs to Military and Law Enforcement Agencies. This proposed legislation will remove barriers preventing the military and law enforcement agencies from obtaining certain types of dogs for training purposes. Presently, Connecticut pet shops must purchase any out of state dogs from a USDA registered breeder or broker. Most dogs trained in Connecticut for exclusive use in military or law enforcement work are imported by trainers into Connecticut from Europe. Because these working dogs are imported from Europe, trainers do not comply with Connecticut law.

This proposed change in statute would exempt dog trainers who sell dogs to military or a law enforcement agency from having to procure a pet shop license. The intent of the USDA requirement in the current statute is to ensure pet shops purchased -- to ensure pet shops purchasing puppies for re-sale from outside Connecticut are not purchasing puppies from USDA regulated breeders and brokers -- are purchasing puppies from USDA regulated

breeders and brokers and not from puppy mills.

The dogs imported from Europe for law enforcement and military use are adult dogs with exquisite blood lines and travel with a health passport. Exempting these trainers from the current statute would allow law enforcement agencies to purchase dogs from Connecticut trainers and maintain business within the state. The change would also allow other law enforcement agencies and military branches from outside Connecticut to purchase their working dogs from Connecticut businesses.

With respect to House Bill 6317, An Act Concerning Registration of Grow -- Growers of Swine and Controlled of Diseases, during the previous legislative session, Public Act 12-80, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission Regarding the Classification of Unclassified Misdemeanors, inadvertently repealed Connecticut General Statute Section 22-319, an important Connecticut Department of Agriculture Statute Concerning the Control of Swine Disease.

A miscommunication between our agency and the Sentencing Commission resulted in the entire statutes repeal, rather than the repeal of only the penalty portion. The Department of Agriculture is requesting that Connecticut General Statutes 22-319 be reinstated minus the penalty provision as was the original intent.

This statute is necessary to maintain our disease free status with the USDA, which is critical in avoiding restrictions on the inter-state movement of swine originating from Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: Any other questions?

Thank you.

GORDON GIBSON: Yes. It's a technical change but we need it.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay.

Our -- our next witness is Meridith Vallillo.

MEREDITH VALLILLO: Good morning. Good morning Chairman. That's right.

Chairman Meyer, Chairman Gentile and members of the Committee, my name is Meredith Vallillo, and for the past eight years I have owned and operated a commercial dog kennel in Bethany Connecticut. It is licensed as a commercial kennel, a pet shop and a training facility. I am hereby to testify -- I'm here to testify in support of Raised Bill 6315, An Act Concerning the Resale of Dogs to Military and Law Enforcement Agencies.

I routinely purchase and import dogs from several vendors located in several European countries. The dogs that I import are of high quality, checked and vaccinated by a veterinary doctor in the country of origin, processed for US customs in New York. The dogs are checked by local veterinary doctor within 48 hours of arrival. And every 15 days thereafter before resale.

In addition to reselling these dogs to military and various law enforcement agencies, I sell to various other state agencies, such as Corrections, Transportation, Environmental and Academic Institutions. Therefore, I request that subsection two of Raised Bill 6315 be expanded to include all federal, state

and municipal agencies.

There should be no concern on the part of the State of Connecticut that any of these dogs brought into Connecticut would have health issues. In addition to veterinary checks and US custom checks, the agencies that I sell to have very demanding requirements the quality and health of the dogs I sell to them. And dogs are also guaranteed -- their health is guaranteed as part of the sales contract.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. And I'm happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR MEYER: I wanted to just ask you a question about the current -- the current law without regard to this resale to the military. What the current law says is no person shall procure any dog or cat for the purpose of resale unless such person holds a pet shop license.

MEREDITH VALLILLO: Correct.

SENATOR MEYER: You're -- you're in this business. Does that mean that if -- if I get a dog and -- and -- and do a breeding with that dog. And the dog has three puppies. The female has three puppies. That I can't -- I can't sell those puppies without having a pet shop license?

MEREDITH VALLILLO: No. If you -- I believe the way the law is, a breeder that has two or less litters a year can sell their puppies without a pet shop license. If you sell more than -- if you breed litters and you sell more than two, then you are required to have a pet shop license. And I'm also required to have a pet shop license because I'm selling dogs that

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were not bred by myself.

SENATOR MEYER: That makes sense. Because it's not in this section of law. That's -- I didn't understand that.

Any questions or comments?

Yes, Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON: Thank you, Senator.

I guess my question would be I'm hearing a lot about us importing dogs from Europe to meet this demand. My question is why aren't we able to have these dogs in America? What is so unique about having them come from Europe? Why can't we find that success here in our own country?

MEREDITH VALLILLO: It's a little bit of a complicated question. But I can attempt to answer it. We have -- if we could buy dogs here in the United States that we can use and resell to these agencies, it would be much easier and less expensive for myself and for the purchasers as well. But unfortunately these American breeding programs do not support the type of dog we need.

If I can -- I don't want to sound the wrong way. But, I -- to term it, we're more of like a Westminster type of society. Obviously most people have seen the Westminster that was just on television. They breed very much for looks and esthetic rather than the workability and the character of these dogs. Where European breeding programs just in order to breed these dogs, there's very strict working requirements as well as esthetic requirements.

So, we're able to get dogs that genetically

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possess these traits that are needed to go on and do what the police and military are requesting. And I can definitely go into deeper detail about what those tests are and so on. But, I hope that answers --

REP. ZIOBRON: Yes. No, thank you. I -- I just -- you know -- it made me wonder why we can't fill that void either.

MEREDITH VALLILLO: -- yes.

REP. ZIOBRON: No. Thank you. That was very helpful.

MEREDITH VALLILLO: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Any other questions? Comments?

Thanks so much.

MEREDITH VALLILLO: You're welcome. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: The last witness on our list who was signed up is Chris Cryder of Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

CHRIS CRYDER: Good afternoon. Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Chris Cryder. And I'm an Outreach Associate for Save the Sound Program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment. And today I'm testifying in support of the underlying intent of Senate Bill 803, SB 805 and HB 6318. Three bills that will help create jobs in the aquaculture industry.

Make Connecticut's oystering industry more competitive and offer environmental benefits like cleaning the Sound's waters. We do believe, however, a few tweaks are needed for



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Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of

The Connecticut General Assembly

By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

February 11, 2013

**H.B. 6315 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESALE OF DOGS TO MILITARY AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

This proposed legislation will remove barriers preventing the military and law enforcement agencies from obtaining certain types of dogs for training purposes.

Most dogs trained in Connecticut for exclusive use in military or law enforcement work are imported by trainers into Connecticut from Europe. Currently, Connecticut law restricts from sale any dog that is not born and raised on the premises unless the seller possesses a pet shop license. (CGS Sections 22-327(9) and 22-344e).

Presently, Connecticut pet shops must purchase any out-of-state dogs from a USDA registered breeder or broker. Because these working dogs are imported from Europe, trainers do not comply with Connecticut law. This proposed change in the statute would exempt dog trainers who sell dogs to the military or law enforcement agencies from having to procure a pet shop license.

The intent of the USDA requirement in the current statute is to ensure pet shops purchasing puppies for resale from outside of Connecticut are purchasing the puppies from USDA regulated breeders and brokers and not "puppy mills". The dogs imported from Europe for law enforcement or military use are adult dogs with exquisite bloodlines and travel with a health passport.

By exempting these trainers from the current statute, it would allow law enforcement agencies to purchase dogs from Connecticut trainers and maintain business within the state. The change would also allow other law enforcement agencies and military branches from outside of Connecticut to purchase their working dogs from Connecticut businesses.

Thank you for your time today and for your thoughtful consideration of this testimony. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful.

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Testimony
of
Meridith Vallillo

Regarding Raised Bill No. 6315

Good Morning, Chairman Meyer, Chairwoman Gentile and members of the Committee.

My name is Meridith Vallillo. For the past eight years, I have owned and operated a commercial dog kennel in Bethany, CT that is licensed as a Commercial Kennel, a Pet Shop and a Training Facility.

I am here to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 6315 "An Act concerning the resale of dogs to Military and Law Enforcement agencies".

I routinely purchase and import dogs from several European vendors located in several European countries. The dogs that I import are of a very high quality, checked and vaccinated by a veterinary doctor in the country of origin and processed through US customs in New York. The dogs are checked by a local veterinary doctor within forty-eight hours of arrival and every fifteen days thereafter prior to resale.

In addition to reselling these dogs to military and various law enforcement agencies, I sell to various other state agencies such as Corrections, Transportation, Environmental and Academic Institutions.

Therefore, I request that subsection (2) of Raised Bill 6315 be expanded to include all Federal, State and Municipal agencies.

There should be no concern on the part of the State of Connecticut that any of these dogs brought into Connecticut would have any health issues.

In addition to the veterinary checks and US Customs checks, the agencies that I sell to have very demanding requirements regarding the quality and health of the dogs that I sell to them.

I also guarantee the dog's health as part of the sale contract.

Thank You for your consideration of my request.

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**CONNECTICUT
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THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6313.

Total Number Voting 137

Necessary for Passage 69

Those voting Yea 137

Voting Nay 0

Absent and not voting 14

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 76.

THE CLERK:

On House Calendar Number -- Page 8, House
Calendar Number 76, Substitute House Bill 6315,
Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on
Environment, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESALE OF DOGS TO
MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile, you have the floor.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the
joint committee's report, Favorable Report and passage
of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you.

Madam Speaker, this bill exempts from the pet shop licensing law people who acquire dogs to resell them to the military or law enforcement agency for law enforcement work or security work.

Under our current law, anyone acquiring a dog or cat for resale must obtain a pet shop license from the agricultural commission. A violation is a class B misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to \$1000 or up to six months imprisonment or both.

The Commissioner has stated that the need for this bill derives from the reality that the source of law enforcement and security dogs, virtually all of them come from Europe but they are trained here, domestically.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Shaban, of the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of this bill for the reasons stated by our Chairperson. It's a common-sense bill. It allows the appropriate relaxation of our current laws to aid law enforcement, municipalities, and the like, so I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on this bill?

Representative Miner, of the 66th.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning.

If I might, a question to the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile, please prepare yourself.

Representative Miner, please proceed.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank -- thank you, Madam Speaker.

I was just looking for one clarification. I remember during the testimony that this was a rather small marketplace, specialty dogs, really fitting what I would think we would all consider a niche market. But I wanted to make sure whether or not these dogs would still fall under the requirement of a warranty.

I think we've heard a lot of testimony in the past about people who acquire animals from pet shops or the like and have taken great efforts to make sure that those dogs and cats, I believe, still would have some warranty, so that an unsuspecting buyer might not be saddled with a very large vet bill.

So, if I could, through you to the proponent of the bill, would these dogs still be subject to that requirement, Madam Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, yes, they are subject to that. And all dogs come with health passports.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the gentle lady for her answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will the members please take your

seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Please return to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO (51st):

I'd like to vote in the affirmative.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Rovero, in the affirmative.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6315.

Total Number Voting 142

Necessary for Passage and

Adoption 72

Those voting Yea 142

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 10, 2013

Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 97.

THE CLERK:

On House Calendar Page Number 10, Calendar Number 97, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee of -- on Environment, Substitute House Bill 5310, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Representative Gentile, you have the floor.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes several technical

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Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I -- again I rise in support of the bill before us. I think it's -- was accurately characterized as enhancing locally grown opportunities for people who do grow poultry in the State of Connecticut and I encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes. I appreciate it. Without objection it could be put on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page nine, Calendar 339, substitute for House Bill number 6315, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESALE OF DOGS TO MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move acceptance of the committee's joint and favorable report and move passage of this bill please.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage will you remark?

THE CHAIR:

Colleagues, right now if you acquire a dog in Connecticut for resale you have to get a pet store license. And I -- I was -- the members of the Environment Committee I think were very informed that there are whole group of dogs that come in from Europe who have been trained for law enforcement or military purposes in Europe. And they come in to -- to breeders and others in Connecticut who resell them. These dogs are in perfect health when they come in. They're trained -- they're trained canines. And so what this bill does is it -- it exempts dogs being sold to the military or to a law enforcement agency from having to go through the pet shop licensing procedure. And that's the bill and I urge its support.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. For the hat trick, Mr. President. Another bill before us that was unanimous in both the Environment Committee as well as the House downstairs. And that makes good sense. I think it makes good policy. And again I would encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator, will you remark further on the bill? Remark further on the bill.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yeah. Yeah. Please.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

I do -- I do want to say that it's a pleasure to work with Senator Chapin on these -- on these matters even though they're not the most complicated bills. But

we've -- we're working it through. The Environment Committee works in a very bipartisan manner. And if there's no objection I ask this bill be put on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page ten, Calendar 345, House Bill number 5970, AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWER OF MUNICIPAL FAIR RENT COMMISSIONS, favorable report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bartolomeo.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's joint favorable and I urge passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage will you remark?

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO:

Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. This bill clarifies the fair Rent commissions' rights and responsibilities and it ensures that residents of seasonal -- seasonal residencies are able to appeal to fair rent commissions. This -- to give you some background there are 25 towns in Connecticut that have fair rent commissions and they were established since 1969. And Connecticut law allows fair rent commissions to receive complaints that are relative to rental charges on housing accommodations. They have the power to review and to act on rent and rental related charges to determine if they are so excessive as to be harsh and unconscionable.

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes in concurrence with the House.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if would mark all items previously marked go should be marked passed retaining their place on the Calendar. And if the Clerk would call the items on the Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page five, Calendar 229, Senate Bill 1027, Calendar 232, Senate Bill number 984. On Calendar page nine, Calendar 336, House Bill 6529, Calendar 337, House Bill 5310. Also on page nine Calendar 338, House Bill 6313 and Calendar 339, House Bill 6315. On page ten, Calendar 345, House Bill 5970. And on page 13, Calendar 393, Senate Bill number 872. Page 18, Calendar 468, House Bill 5388. Page 27, Calendar 561, House Bill 6641 and Calendar 565, House Bill 6346. And on page 40, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 1016.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The machine will be opened, vote on a Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on today's Consent Calendar in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
Please check the board and make sure your vote has
accurately recorded. If all members have voted the
machine will be closed and the Clerk will announce the
tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, before
moving for moving for adjournment for today would like
to announce that we will likely be in -- in session
next week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and also
possibly Friday so members should reserve those four
days next week as -- as possible or probable session
days. At this point, Mr. President, would yield the
floor to members for announcements of committee
meetings or for other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Before we do that I would like to
just to take the privilege of -- May is a big birthday
month and we have one of our members who is
celebrating her birthday tomorrow. I would like to
wish Senator Bye a happy birthday tomorrow and I'm
trying to figure out if her birthday wish was granted
as she's not here as she would have liked to have been
here. But happy birthday.

And there is a bipartisan fruit in the caucus room for
Senator Bye because she didn't want a cake so we got
her some fruit that's -- that she requested. So