

PA 14-17

HB5329

House	390-393	4
Senate	1775, 1884-1886	4
Public Health	1096	<u>1</u>
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
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If not, let's get to the business of the day.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 43.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 43, favorable report of the Joint Standing on Public Health, House Bill 5329, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF NATURAL FOOD.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Chairman Johnson, you have the floor, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning. I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, madam?

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last year's bill that addressed genetically-modified food contained some language changes that needed to be made in this year's bill. It changed the definition of "natural food" and made the definition applicable to GMOs as well as our existing natural foods definition. So what this bill will do is it

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will exclude GMOs from that definition until the trigger methods that we had implemented in that GMO bill go into effect, which would include the passage the same bill in four states that would add up to approximately 20 million, and one of those states would have to border on Connecticut.

The other part of the bill changes the natural definition for food, for animal consumption to the existing definition and excludes GMOs for all time into the future in terms of food that is made specifically for animal consumption. I move passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Srinivasan of the 31st.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I, too rise, in strong support of this bill. This bill ensures that the labeling requirements that are in accordance with Public Act 13-183 that was signed into law last year and also makes sure that this applies only to food

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that is intended for human consumption. I urge support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark? Do you care to remark further on the bill that's before us?

If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members 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. Will members please return to the chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5329.

Total Number Voting 137

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Necessary for Passage	69
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	12

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes.

At this time, I would just ask members of the House to stay in your seats. We have a special event that is about to take place and we would like you all to be a part of it. And at this time, I would recognize the distinguished Minority Leader Representative Larry Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of an introduction, if I may.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Ladies and gentleman, we had opening day -- what -- early last month and I did not have a chance because of the weather to have my family, but I am fortunate enough to have them today and I would be honored if I can introduce them. So ladies and

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SENATE**

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Madam Clerk.

(Senator Coleman of the 2nd in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Would the Clerk please return to the Call of the Calendar. Would the Senate please stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, for some additional markings.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. First of all, Mr. President, to begin a Consent Calendar, Calendar page two, Calendar 145, House Bill 5329. Mr. President, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also, Mr. President, Calendar page nine, Calendar 342, House Bill 5098, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

That objection is so ordered.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Without objection, I would like this placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, ma'am. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before calling for a vote on the Consent Calendar and asking the Clerk to list the items we just moved, that any items today referred to Committees of the General Assembly, that those items be transmitted immediately to the Committees and not held.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

If the Clerk would now proceed to read the items on the Consent Calendar and so we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

An item from Agenda Number one, House Bill 5340.

On page two, Calendar 145, House Bill 5329.

On page five, Calendar 295, Senate Bill 445.

On page nine, Calendar 342, House Bill 5098.

And on page 10, Calendar 343, House Bill 5259.

On page 13, Calendar 404, Senate Bill 456.

Page 14, Calendar 408, Senate Bill 489.

On page 16, Calendar 430, House Bill 5285.

On page 18, Calendar 439, House Bill 5540.

On page 26, Calendar 497, House Bill 5081.

And on page 29, Calendar 511, House Bill 5146.

Page 30, Calendar 53, Senate Bill 203, and Calendar 95, Senate Bill 176.

On page 31, Calendar 116, Senate Bill 430.

Page 38, Calendar 280, Senate Bill 312.

And on page 41, Calendar 395, Senate 104.

THE CHAIR:

I guess that's all it. Okay.

Mr. Clerk, will you please open the machines and -- I'll open the machines. You call for a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate on today's Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.
Total number voting 35
Those voting Yea 35
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before concluding today's session, would yield the floor to members who may wish to announce Committee meetings or for other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there points of personal privilege? Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, while I enjoyed being at the circle today, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish my wife a very happy birthday today.

THE CHAIR:

Oh my goodness.

SENATOR FASANO:

I missed the birthday dinner, but it -- I can't think of another group to spend it with other than my wife. So happy birthday to my wife.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 3
977 – 1267**

2014



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March 5, 2014

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Committee on Public Health:

Raised Bill No. 5329 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF NATURAL FOOD.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports the adoption of RB 5329. Although we did not support the GMO labeling bill last year we feel RB 5329 is appropriate as it delays the implementation of the definition of "natural food" to coincide with the trigger mechanism as described in section 21a-92c. The bill also clarifies that the provisions of the bill shall only apply to food that is intended for human consumption.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association - *The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture*