



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1063**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE FARMLAND AVAILABILITY FOR BEGINNING FARMERS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study issues relating to farmland access for new and beginning  
3 farmers. In undertaking such study, the task force shall examine the  
4 affordability of such farmland access, including, but not limited to, the  
5 cost to purchase or rent such farmland in urban, rural and suburban  
6 areas of the state, the availability of such farmland in such settings and  
7 the accessibility of farm financing and farm worker housing.  
8 Additionally, in examining such issues, the task force shall consider  
9 the accessibility of such farmland for historically underrepresented  
10 populations in the state's farming community, review the effectiveness  
11 of current programs to create such accessibility and consider programs  
12 of other states aimed at creating such accessibility.

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

14 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
15 one of whom shall be a beginning farmer and one of whom shall be a  
16 farmer with not less than ten years of farming experience;

17 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
18 of whom shall be from an organization that works on behalf of starting

19 farmers and one of whom shall be from a financial institution that  
20 lends money to farmers in the state;

21 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
22 Representatives, who shall be a member or representative of an  
23 organization that advocates for equal human rights and racial justice;

24 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
25 a representative of an organization that links beginning farmers with  
26 farmland in urban, rural and suburban areas of the state;

27 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
28 Representatives, who shall be from a state or municipal planning  
29 organization;

30 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
31 a representative of a group that advocates for farmland preservation  
32 and accessibility, including, but not limited to, urban farming;

33 (7) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's  
34 designee;

35 (8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
36 or the commissioner's designee; and

37 (9) A representative of The University of Connecticut's Agricultural  
38 Extension, who shall be appointed by the director of such extension.

39 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
40 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
41 of the General Assembly.

42 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
43 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
44 filled by the appointing authority.

45 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
46 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force

47 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
48 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
49 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

50 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
51 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture  
52 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

53 (g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a  
54 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
55 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
56 relating to agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
57 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
58 that it submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*