

190C.2 Organic products — advisory council.

1. An organic advisory council is established within the department. The council is composed of eleven members appointed by the governor and secretary, as provided in this section. The governor and secretary shall accept nominations from persons or organizations representing persons who serve on the council, as determined by the governor and secretary making appointments under this section.

2. The members shall serve staggered terms of four years beginning and ending as provided in section 69.19. Members appointed under this section shall be persons knowledgeable regarding the production, handling, processing, and retailing of organic agricultural products. The members of the council shall be appointed as follows:

a. Five persons who operate farms producing organic agricultural products. The governor shall appoint two of the persons, at least one of which shall be a producer of livestock, who may be a dairy or egg producer. The secretary shall appoint three of the persons, at least one of which shall be a producer of an agricultural commodity other than livestock. To qualify for appointment, a person must have derived a substantial portion of the person's income, wages, or salary from the production of organic agricultural products for three years prior to appointment.

b. Two persons who operate businesses processing organic agricultural products. One person shall be appointed by the governor and one person shall be appointed by the secretary. To qualify for appointment, a person must have derived a substantial portion of the person's income, wages, or salary from processing organic agricultural products for three years prior to appointment.

c. One person appointed by the secretary, who shall be either of the following:

(1) A person who operates a business handling organic agricultural products. To qualify for appointment, a person must have derived a substantial portion of the person's income, wages, or salary from handling organic agricultural products for three years prior to appointment.

(2) A person who operates a business selling organic agricultural products. To qualify for appointment, a person must have derived a substantial portion of the person's income, wages, or salary from selling organic agricultural products on a retail basis for three years prior to appointment.

d. Two persons who have an educational degree and experience in agricultural or food science. One person shall be appointed by the governor and one person shall be appointed by the secretary. To qualify for appointment, a person must not have a financial interest in the production, handling, processing, or selling of organic agricultural products.

e. One person appointed by the governor, who represents the public interest, the natural environment, or consumers. To qualify for appointment, the person must be a member of an organization representing the public interest, consumers, or the natural environment. The person must not have a financial interest in the production, handling, processing, or selling of organic agricultural products.

3. A vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired portion of the term. A member is eligible for reappointment. The governor may remove a member appointed by the governor and the secretary may remove a member appointed by the secretary, if the removal is based on the member's misfeasance, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty or other just cause, after notice and hearing, unless the notice and hearing is expressly waived in writing.

4. Six members of the council constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is necessary for any substantive action to be taken by the council. The majority shall not include any member who has a conflict of interest and a statement by a member that the member has a conflict of interest is conclusive for this purpose. A vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of a quorum to exercise all rights and perform all duties of the council.

5. The members are entitled to receive a per diem as specified in section 7E.6 for each day spent in performance of duties as members, and shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties as members.

6. If a member has an interest, either direct or indirect, in a contract to which the council is

or is to be a party, the member shall disclose the interest to the council in writing. The writing stating the conflict shall be set forth in the minutes of the council. The member having the interest shall not participate in any action by the council relating to the contract.

7. The council shall meet on a regular basis and at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request to the chairperson of two or more members. The department shall provide administrative support to the council.

98 Acts, ch 1205, §2, 20; 2003 Acts, ch 104, §4 – 6, 21