

Thanks in part to the dedicated work of the VFMA, the Vermont legislature amended section 494, in chapter 21, of the Conservation and Development title. The amendment greatly improves the capacity of farmers' markets that are members of the VFMA to advertise to the public the time and location of the market. The amendment was signed into law on May 12th 2009, within act 0051, formally known as "An Act Relating To Encouraging Use Of Local Foods In Vermont's Food System". It allows the following:

- VFMA farmers' markets can post directional signs informing the public of the markets location, as long as the sign is no larger than six square feet.
- Municipalities and designated downtown districts under the amendment may also provide signage that provides either guidance to, or information about, the VFMA farmers' market.
- Approved municipal signs cannot exceed 12 square feet, and cannot be more than 12 feet in height. They can be placed in any public right-of-way other than interstates.
- Similarly, approved downtown signs cannot exceed 12 square feet, but the highest point of the sign cannot be more than 12 feet above the ground, road surface or sidewalk. They can also be placed in any public right-of-way other than an interstate highway.
- Downtown signs, however, cannot be erected along highways or in view of highways if they violate federal laws or regulations, and specifically if they affect the allocation of federal highway funds.

Law # and Name: Act 0051, "An Act Relating To Encouraging Use Of Local Foods In Vermont's Food System".

Enacted: May 12th 2009.

Purpose: To improve the ability of VFMA farmers' markets to advertise to the public by amending and clarifying existing signage laws.

What You Need to Know:

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