

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2082

6
7 S.P. 768

In Senate, February 14, 1984

8 On Motion by Senator Erwin of Oxford.

9 Reference to the Committee on Agriculture. Ordered printed and sent
down for concurrence.

10 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
Rule 26.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Erwin of Oxford.

11 Cosponsors: Senator Twitchell of Oxford, Representative Vose of
Eastport and Representative Sherburne of Dexter.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
16

17 AN ACT Relating to Signs for Farm
18 Market Sales.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1913-A, sub-§1, ¶¶G and H, as
23 enacted by PL 1981, c. 318, §3, are amended to read:

24 G. Hand-held or similar signs not affixed to the
25 ground or buildings; and

26 H. Signs bearing political messages relating to
27 an election, primary or referendum, provided that
28 these signs may not be placed within the right-
29 of-way prior to 6 weeks before the election, pri-
30 mary or referendum to which they relate and must
31 be removed by the candidate or political commit-
32 tee not later than one week thereafter; and

1 Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1913-A, sub-§1, ¶I is enacted
2 to read:

3 I. Temporary signs may be erected by owners of
4 roadside stands providing directions to their
5 places of business which offer for sale native
6 agricultural products, provided:

7 (1) Temporary signs are not installed be-
8 fore June 1st and are removed by owner be-
9 fore October 15th;

10 (2) Temporary signs are neat in appearance,
11 clearly readable to the passing motorist and
12 do not exceed a total of 6 square feet in
13 surface area;

14 (3) Temporary signs are placed off the
15 shoulder of roadway with the opportunity to
16 remain within the public way;

17 (4) Temporary signs number no more than 2,
18 one in each direction on either side of the
19 roadway located within 300 feet of the prin-
20 cipal building or auxiliary structure where
21 the agricultural business is carried on or
22 practiced; and

23 (5) Such signs are located within the mu-
24 nicipality where the agricultural business
25 is located.

26 Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §1922, as repealed and replaced
27 by PL 1981, c. 318, §4, is amended to read:

28 §1922. Local ordinance

29 This chapter shall not supersede the provisions
30 of any other statute, regulation, ordinance or reso-
31 lution, the requirements of which are more strict
32 than those of this chapter and not inconsistent
33 therewith, whether such ordinance, bylaw, regulation,
34 resolution or statute was enacted before or after the
35 effective date of this chapter. It shall not be in-
36 consistent with this chapter if such statute, regula-
37 tion, ordinance or resolution prohibits official
38 business directional signs. Local ordinances shall

1 not prohibit the designation of fixed locations on
2 premise and off for sign displays at and near season-
3 al farmers' markets, which are situated either on
4 public or private property in the municipality.

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

6 With passage of the Maine Traveler Information
7 Services Act, Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 21,
8 strict standards were established governing outdoor
9 advertising and business sign placement. The agri-
10 cultural sector previously retained under state law
11 special consideration for signs announcing sales of
12 agricultural products. This privilege was eliminated
13 in 1978 when the so called "billboard" law became ef-
14 fective.

15 This bill proposal restores special consideration
16 to Maine farmers, many of whom offer for sale their
17 agricultural products seasonally at farmers' markets
18 or roadside stands.

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