Farmers Market Regulatory Modernization

HB5657/SB3380 – Representative Tryon & Senator Koehler - SUPPORT

Why it is needed?

- The retail food environment is changing, obesity and diabetes rates are at epidemic levels and demand for locally produced food continues to grow.
- Farmers markets create opportunities for consumers to access fresh and locally produced food.
- Farmers markets have emerged as successful hubs for job creation and business incubation.
- Farmers and food businesses currently have to wade through a complicated regulatory environment with rules varying from county to county, creating unnecessary barriers.
- Product sampling has immediate positive purchasing impact at farmers markets.
- Bad actors, occasionally, claim they are selling homegrown produce but in fact they are purchasing wholesale and re-selling under the pretense they are a farmer.
- Regional planning commissions, communities and economic development organizations are consistently including local food and farmers markets as part of their long term development plans. We need a statewide regulatory frame work that treats farmers markets accordingly.

What is Does?

- Encourages and promotes growth of a re-emerging food business
- Takes a balanced risk and scale appropriate approach
- Amends statute, creating a timeline for IDPH’s Farmers Market Task Force to develop consistent statewide administrative rules for farmers markets
- Creates a new statewide sampling certificate for farmers markets
- Creates new transparency requirements at farmers markets
- Creates a back-stop by setting binding and consistent statewide farmers market guidelines in the case that the task force is unable to accomplish its goals
- Amends the IL Cottage Food Law to address issues with implementation and interpretation

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