

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 126, L.D. 323, Bill, "An Act to Allow a Person to Erect One Advertising Sign"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Allow a Business to Obtain a Municipal Permit for One Off-premises Business Advertising Sign'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1912-C is enacted to read:

§1912-C. Municipal authority for off-premises business advertising signs

Upon receipt of an application from a business located in that municipality, a municipality may issue a permit allowing that business to place an off-premises business advertising sign on private property within that municipality. A business may not have more than one sign permitted under this section at any one time. Such signs may be located only on private land and only with the written permission of the landowner. The sign may not be placed within the right-of-way of any public way, outside the boundary of the municipality granting the permit or outside a circle centered on the business with a radius of 5 miles. A municipality may not grant a permit for any sign larger than 16

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 square feet or any illuminated or changeable sign as described
3 under section 1914, subsection 6, paragraphs C, D and E or
4 section 1914, subsection 11. Not more than one sign permitted
5 under this section may be erected on any one parcel of land. A
6 municipality may establish a permit fee and may impose other
7 limitations on such signs as determined necessary by the
8 municipality.'

9 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
10 summary the following:

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13 **FISCAL NOTE**

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15 The Department of Transportation will incur some minor
16 additional costs to enforce certain sign restrictions for areas
17 that are immediately adjacent to state roads. These costs can be
18 absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

19 This bill may both increase and decrease the number of civil
20 violations filed in the court system. The net effect on the
21 Judicial Department's workload and administrative costs will be
22 minimal. The net effect on the collection of fines will also be
23 insignificant.'

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26 **SUMMARY**

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28 This amendment authorizes towns to issue permits for
29 off-site business advertising signs. The amendment limits each
30 business to one sign. The amendment prohibits towns from
31 permitting signs larger than 16 square feet or that are
32 illuminated or changeable signs. Signs may be placed only on
33 private land in the town granting the permits and only with the
34 permission of the landowner. Not more than one permitted sign may
35 be erected on any one parcel of land. The amendment allows towns
36 to place other limitations on such signs, such as charging a fee
37 for the permit. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the
38 bill.