

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 155

S.P. 78

In Senate, January 21, 2003

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

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Representative TARDY of Newport and
Senators: BLAIS of Kennebec, SAVAGE of Knox, STANLEY of Penobscot, WOODCOCK of
Franklin, Representatives: BOWLES of Sanford, CARR of Lincoln, COLLINS of Wells,
GOODWIN of Pembroke.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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

6 **§1912-C. Municipal authority for off-premises business
advertising signs**

8 Upon receipt of an application from a business located in
10 that municipality, a municipality may issue a permit allowing
12 that business to place an off-premises business advertising sign
14 on private property within that municipality. A business may not
16 have more than one sign permitted under this section at any one
18 time. Such signs may be located only on private land and only
20 with the written permission of the landowner. The sign may not
22 be placed within the right-of-way of any public way, outside the
24 boundary of the municipality granting the permit or outside a
26 circle centered on the business with a radius of 5 miles. A
28 municipality may not grant a permit for any sign larger than 16
30 square feet or any illuminated or changeable sign as described
32 under section 1914, subsection 6, paragraphs C, D and E or
34 section 1914, subsection 11-A. Not more than one sign permitted
36 under this section may be erected on any one parcel of land. A
38 municipality may establish a permit fee and may impose other
limitations on such signs as determined necessary by the
municipality.

28 **SUMMARY**

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