

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 670

S. P. 355

In Senate, February 11, 1941.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 650 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Chamberlain of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Traffic Safety.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 139, § 19, amended. Section 19 of chapter 139 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 19. Advertising signs on highway prohibited; sale use defined; signs approved by state highway commission for safeguarding travel, excepted. No person shall post, erect, display, or maintain or cause to be posted, erected, displayed, or maintained any sign, billboard, panel, placard, poster, notice, or other advertising device, in, upon, or above any public highway or so situated with respect to any public highway as to obstruct clear vision of an intersecting highway or highways or otherwise so situated as to prevent the safe use of the public highway, **such safe use shall include allowing space for the stopping, standing and parking of vehicles entirely off the surface of the roadway whenever such function is possible and prevented solely by such advertising device or its supports;** and such public highway shall be deemed the full width of the road as laid out by the county or the town, **and for the purpose of insuring safe use as defined in this act where the right of way limits as laid out by county or town are not easily determined, a reasonable regulation of land along the highways**

to increase or preserve the traffic capacity, reduce hazards to travellers on the highways and protect their scenic attractiveness may be exercised by the establishment of a protective area consisting of all land along the highways lying between each line of the highway and line parallel to such highway on both sides ten feet distant from the edge of the paved or treated surface.

Provided, that the provisions hereof shall not apply to the state or to any political subdivision thereof or to signs erected or maintained with the approval of the state highway commission solely for the purpose of safeguarding, facilitating, or protecting travel along the highway; and provided further that the state highway commission may authorize the placing of directional signs of such design as it shall determine, not exceeding 30 inches in length and 9 inches in width to designate places of interest; to be posted without expense to the state at the junction of roads in the town where the place is located and in adjoining towns.

If any provision or regulation of this act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court such decision shall affect only the provision or regulation so declared invalid or unconstitutional and shall not affect any other section or provision.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 139, § 20, amended. Section 20 of chapter 139 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 20. Penalty for violation of § 19; jurisdiction of offenses; state police to remove signs. Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of the preceding section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$500; and whoever after conviction of such violation unlawfully maintains any such sign, billboard, panel, placard, poster, notice, or other advertising device for 10 days after such conviction may be punished by a further fine of not more than \$50 for each day upon which such sign, billboard, panel, placard, poster, notice, or other advertising device is maintained. Municipal courts and trial justices shall have jurisdiction to punish offenses under said section. The state police shall remove all signs, bill-boards, panels, placards, posters, notices, or other advertising devices existing within the limits of the highway **or which in any other way are** in violation hereof.'