

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I F T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 847

H. P. 1278

House of Representatives, February 21, 1951.

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Permits for Outdoor Advertising.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 20, § 116, amended. Section 116 of chapter 20 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 116. Limitation on granting of permits. No permit shall be granted for the erection, construction, or maintenance of any outdoor advertising structure, device, or display within a distance of 300 feet of the intersection or junction of a highway with another highway, or with a railway or street railway, at a point where it would obstruct or interfere with a view of a train, street car, or other vehicle on the intersecting or joining highway, railroad, or street railway; or within 300 feet of any public park, reservation, public forest, public playground, school, church, or cemetery and in public view therefrom; or within 50 feet from the nearer line of the traveled way of a public highway and in public view therefrom; or on any public highway, park, or other public property; or which in the judgment of the commission is or would be injurious to property in the vicinity thereof, or injuriously affect any public interest, **including the public interest in the protection and conservation of the natural beauty of the land-**

scape, or endanger the safety of persons using any highway; or in a place wherein the erection, construction, or maintenance thereof is or shall be prohibited by any municipal ordinance or regulation; or upon real property owned by or leased to a person other than the applicant, except with the consent of such owner or lessee; or whose area shall exceed 900 square feet; or which, in whole or in part, in its operation shall move or simulate motion, or which is or shall be painted upon or annexed to any rock or tree within the prohibited area. No permit shall be granted or renewed for the further maintenance of any billboard, sign, or other advertising device unless the front, back, braces, anchors, and lattice work thereof are kept in proper condition.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 20, § 116-A, additional. Chapter 20 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 116-A, to read as follows:

'Sec. 116-A. State policy. For the guidance and direction of the commission in the exercise of its discretionary authority over the granting and renewal of permits for outdoor advertising under the provisions of sections 111 to 122-A, inclusive, and in the interest of the public safety and of the preservation of the natural beauty of the landscape along the highways, it is declared to be the policy of the state that regulation and control shall be exercised with a view to the elimination of outdoor advertising structures as an ultimate objective to be attained as rapidly as the commission may deem consistent with fairness to the existing rights of all parties concerned.'