

**TRA Committee Bills Related to Temporary Signs  
125<sup>th</sup> – 129<sup>th</sup> Legislatures**

LD #	Bill Title	Bill or Enacted Law Summary	Final Disposition
<b>125<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2011-2012)</b>			
135	An Act To Allow the Placement of Certain Road Signs That Advertise a Small Business	This bill proposed to allow a person or business that employs fewer than 10 persons to place a sign on private property within one mile of the place of business without a license or permit.	Majority ONTP
<b>126<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2013-2014)</b>			
1721	An Act To Make Changes to and Clarify Maine Traveler Information Services Laws	Public Law 2013, chapter 529 made the following adjustments to the Maine traveler information services laws: 1. It added complying with national standards to the purpose and policy provisions of the law. 2. It clarified the definition of "on-premises sign" and provided that the principal building or structure of an advertised business or activity includes parking lots and outbuildings. 3. It clarified the manner in which the Commissioner of Transportation may issue a license for on-premises signs. 4. It removed the prohibition on placing on-premises signs on natural features. 5. It provided that within compact areas of an urban compact municipality, the municipality is responsible for the administration of the law pertaining to on-premises advertisements. 6. It amended the definition of "producer" to refer to farm and food products instead of an agricultural product. 7. It allowed farm stands and farmers' markets to erect signs without a license or permit within the public right-of-way. 8. It adjusted the changeable signs provision of the law to allow a business one changeable sign with two sides for each public way that provides direct vehicular access to the business. 9. It removed the provision requiring the changeable portion of an on-premises changeable sign to constitute no more than 50 percent of the sign's surface area.	Enacted, Public 529
<b>127<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2015-2016)</b>			
287	An Act To Improve Traffic Safety during Political Campaign Seasons	Current law allows political signs to be erected and maintained within the public right-of-way without a license or permit. This bill proposed to repeal that law.	ONTP
1592	An Act To Amend the Maine Traveler Information Services Laws	Public Law 2015, chapter 403 made the following changes to the Maine traveler information services laws to address United States Supreme Court decision, <i>Reed v. Town of Gilbert</i> , No. 13-502 (2015), relating to categorical signs within a public right-of-way: 1. It clarified the definition of "erect" to also mean display. 2. It added a definition of "temporary sign" to mean a sign bearing a noncommercial message that has been placed within the public right-of-way for a limited period of time. 3. It removed the following signs from the provisions relating to categorical signs within the public right-of-way: signs showing the place and time of service or meetings of religious and civic organizations; memorial signs or tablets; signs bearing political messages relating to an election, primary or referendum; signs erected by a producer that directs travelers to the location where farm and food products are grown, produced and sold; and signs erected for a farmers' market that are directional in nature. Instead, the law creates a broader category of temporary signs within the public right-of-way in order to regulate signs within a public right-of-way in a content-neutral manner per the United States Supreme Court decision, <i>Reed v. Town of Gilbert</i> , No. 13-502 (2015). 4. The law provides that a temporary sign may be placed within the public right-of-way for a maximum of six weeks per calendar year. It provides that a temporary sign may not be placed within the public right-of-way within 30 feet of another temporary sign bearing the same or substantially the same message. It also provides that a temporary sign may not exceed four feet by eight feet in size. 5. Finally, the law provides that a temporary sign must be labeled with the name and address of the individual, entity or organization that placed the sign within the public right-of-way and the designated time period the sign will be maintained within the public right-of-way. It repealed the provision of law regarding categorical signs outside the public right-of-way. It provides that, except as provided by current law relating to on-premises signs, a sign may be erected outside the public right-of-way as long as it does not exceed 50 square feet in size. It repealed the provision of law relating to unlawful removal of political signs. Instead, it provides that the unlawful removal of temporary signs from the public right-of-way is a civil violation for which a fine of up to \$250 may be adjudged.	Enacted, Public 403

<b>LD #</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>	<b>Bill or Enacted Law Summary</b>	<b>Final Disposition</b>
1608	An Act To Allow the Placement of Road Signs Advertising Events That Benefit Certain Organizations and Allow Free Admission to Military Personnel	This bill proposed to allow a public, civic, philanthropic, charitable or religious organization to erect signs in the public right-of-way that announce a fund-raising event for that organization at which military personnel, active and retired, and the families of military personnel are permitted entry free of charge.	ONTP
<b>128<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2017-2018)</b>			
209	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Temporary Sign Usage	Public Law 2017, chapter 321 increased the amount of time a temporary sign may be placed in the public right-of-way from a maximum of six weeks per calendar year to a maximum of 12 weeks per calendar year. The law clarified temporary signs within the public right-of-way must include or be marked with the name and address of the individual, entity or organization that placed the sign within the public right-of-way and the date the sign was erected within the public right-of-way.	Enacted, Public 321
119	An Act Regarding the Display and Content of Political Signs	Current law allows a temporary sign, including, but not limited to, a sign bearing a political message relating to an election, primary or referendum, to be placed in the public right-of-way for a maximum of six weeks per calendar year. This bill proposed to allow a temporary sign to be placed in the public right-of-way for a maximum of twelve weeks per calendar year, as long as that sign is not displayed for more than six weeks before the event to which the sign relates. This bill also proposed to remove the requirement that temporary signs be labeled with the name and address of the entity that placed the sign within the public way and the time period for which the sign will be maintained.	ONTP
1169	An Act To Exempt Temporary Categorical Signs from the Identification ONTP	This bill proposed to exempt a temporary sign that is within a public right-of-way during the six weeks prior to a primary election in June or a general election in November from the requirement that the sign be labeled with the name and address of the individual, entity or organization that placed the sign within the public right-of-way and the designated time period the sign will be maintained within the public right-of-way.	ONTP
1351	An Act Regarding the Length of Time a Temporary Sign May Be Placed in a Public Way	Current law allows temporary signs to be placed within a public right-of-way for a maximum of six weeks in a calendar year. This bill proposed to increase to approximately 12 weeks the amount of time that a temporary sign may be placed within a public right-of-way but restricts the use of those signs to election years by specifying that they may be placed during the period from May 1st before a primary election to the Sunday immediately following that primary election and from October 1st before a general election to the Sunday immediately following that general election.	ONTP
<b>129<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2019-2020)</b>			
689	An Act Regarding Temporary Signs That Are Placed in the Public Right-of-Way	Public Law 2019, chapter 594 prohibits a temporary sign from being placed within the public right-of-way for more than six weeks from January 1st to June 30th or for more than six weeks from July 1st to December 31st.	Enacted, Public 594
827	An Act Regarding the Placement of Campaign Signs	This bill proposed to allow a business to move a campaign sign that is placed directly in front of a storefront.	ONTP
1195	An Act To Encourage the Removal of Campaign Signs from the Public Right-of-way	This bill proposed to require that a temporary sign, which includes a campaign sign, placed within the public right-of-way that advertises or announces an event must be removed from the right-of-way within four weeks after the event and, if the sign is not removed within that four-week period, the municipality in which the sign is located may remove the sign and assess the individual, entity or organization that placed the sign a fee of \$10.	ONTP
1682	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Removal of Unlawful Signs	Public Law 2019, chapter 228 restricts the placement of categorical signs by prohibiting their erection on trees, in control-of-access areas, within medians less than 6 feet in width and on islands within a rotary. It reduces the number of days the owner of a sign erected in violation of the law has to remove the sign from 30 days to 14 days after notice and clarifies that the notice may be sent by the agency having control of the public way in which the sign has been erected. The law requires the Department of Transportation to remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law if the public right-of-way is a state or state aid highway that is not within an urban compact municipality; the department may remove any sign on a public right-of-way for public safety purposes. A municipality may remove any sign that has been placed in violation of the law on a town way or state or state aid highway that is in an urban compact municipality within that municipality's jurisdiction.	Enacted, Public 228