

Sign Bills Introduced in 126th Legislature

Ten bills introduced this year would chip away at the Maine that bans billboards and regulates the placement of road signs. NRCM opposes all of these bills and is pleased that the Transportation Committee has voted Ought Not to Pass (ONTP) on most of them so far. One bill (LD 407) that would require a highway sign for the Oxford Casino was amended into a bill creating a sign policy review process (amendment provided below).

Directional Sign Bills

Resolve, To Direct the Department of Transportation To Provide Signs on Interstate 95, on Interstate 395 and in the City of Brewer for the Underground Railroad Memorial at Chamberlain Freedom Park

[LD 332](#) Rep. Campbell of Orrington; Public Hearing 2/27/13; 10-3 ONTP; Senate voted 21-13 against the bill; final vote pending in House as of 4/26.

An Act To Exempt Snowmobile Clubs from Certain Department of Transportation Sign Requirements

[LD 404](#) Rep. Brooks of Winterport; Public Hearing 2/27/13; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority To Place Signs Directing Motorists to Oxford Casino

[LD 407](#) Rep. Jackson of Oxford; Public Hearing 2/27/13; OTP-As Amended (see below)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Place a Sign on Northbound Interstate 95 Directing Motorists to Lee Academy

[LD 74](#) Rep. Turner of Burlington; Public Hearing held 2/20/13; 11-2 ONTP; Senate Insists ONTP 19-15; House Voted Against ONTP 81-65.

Resolve, Directing the Maine Turnpike Authority To Place Signs Directing Motorists to Berwick Academy

[LD 13](#) Rep. Beavers of South Berwick; Public Hearing held 2/6/13; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Add a Reference to the Katahdin Trail to the Sign for the First Newport Exit on Interstate 95 North

[LD 12](#) Rep. Davis, Sr. of Sangerville; Public Hearing held 2/6/13; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

An Act To Require That a Sign Directing Motorists To Gould Academy Be Placed on the Highway

[LD 817](#) Rep. Crockett of Bethel; Public Hearing 3/22/13; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

An Act To Require Signs Recognizing the 45th Parallel in Maine

[LD 571](#) Rep. Haskell of Milford; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

An Act Directing the Department of Transportation To Place Signs on Interstate 295 Directing Motorists to the Town of Harpswell

[LD 712](#) Sen. Gerzofsky of Cumberland; 13-0 ONTP; Bill died in both House and Senate.

On-premises signs bill

An Act to Promote Small Business by Enhancing the Use of On-premises Signs

[LD 483](#) Rep. Dennis Keschl of Belgrade; Public Hearing held 3/8/13; 11-2 ONTP; 5/26 the House voted 98-49 to defeat the bill.

LD 407 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following: **Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority to Study Issues Relating to Guide Signs on Highways**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting:

Sec. 1. Policy and specifications relating to guide signs on all roads open to public travel. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation, referred to in this resolve as “the department” and the Maine Turnpike Authority, referred to in this resolve as “the authority,” shall develop a proposed policy and specifications relating to guide signs which will be consistent with the national standard for installing traffic control devices, including guide signs, on all roads open to public travel. For the purpose of this resolve, the national standards for installing traffic control devices, including guide signs, are in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and are developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and be it further

Sec. 2. Participants. Resolved: That the department and the authority may invite interested parties to participate in the development of a proposed policy as needed; and be it further

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That after an update to the national standards for guide signs during the summer of 2013, the department and the authority shall examine the new national standards and develop recommendations to do one of the following:

1. Adopt the revised 2013 national standard, including any subsequent amendments, as the standard for all traffic control devices, including guide signs, in the state;
2. Adopt the national standard, including any subsequent amendments, for all traffic control devices, including guide signs, with a state supplement that is in substantial conformance with the revised 2013 national standard; or
3. Adopt a state manual on uniform traffic control devices, including guide signs, that is in substantial conformance with the revised 2013 national standard, including any subsequent amendments; and be it further

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That by January 15, 2014, the department and the authority shall submit a written report of the findings under this resolve and any recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature relating to the subject matter of this report.

SUMMARY: This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, directs the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority to develop a proposed policy and specifications relating to guide signs on all roads open to public travel after an update to the national standards for guide signs during the summer of 2013. The department and the authority are directed to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than January 15, 2014. The amendment also gives the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation authority to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature relating to the subject matter of this report.