



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

April 27, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Maine Department of Transportation would like to remind the real estate community that proper placement of real estate signs is essential if you wish to avoid their removal.

Real estate signs are governed by Title 23, M.R.S.A. §1901-1925 just like all other business signs that are installed or located within the State of Maine. The law clearly prohibits off-premise advertising visible to public ways and no special real estate exemption exists.

The statute allows for the placement of on-premise real estate signs on the property being sold, rented or leased. These on-premise signs are not to be installed or maintained within the public right of way, upon trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features. Not more than one on-premise sign, advertising the sale or lease of the property, may be permitted on land adjacent to any portion of the interstate system, including ramp and interchange areas, which is visible there from.

The most common improper placement of real estate signs is locating them at the intersection of two public roads. The law does not distinguish between state highways, municipal roads; county roads, unincorporated territory roads or other roads dedicated to the public and all signs placed within the limits of any public right of way shall be subject to immediate removal and disposal by the Department.

There is a provision for placement of signs located outside the public right of way limits within 30 feet of the intersection or junction of a public and private way with land owner's permission. These approach sign may not exceed 100 square feet per sign.

We would ask that this information be shared and disseminated to all your agents.

We hope that this information is helpful and that everyone has a successful season. If you have any questions please call (207)624-3611 or write to the above address. Also, you may visit our web page at <http://www.state.me.us/mdot/homepage.htm>.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Sinclair
Supervisor
R/W Control



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