

**TOWN OF SEARSPORT
CHANGEABLE SIGNS ORDINANCE**

1. AUTHORITY.

The Town of Searsport hereby enacts this "Changeable Signs Ordinance" (hereinafter the "Ordinance") pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §1914 (1 1-A), 30-A M.R.S.A. §3001.

2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the frequency and manner of change of display on each side of a changeable sign in a manner contrary to that provided by State law, and to do so in a manner that promotes highway safety.

3. DEFINITIONS.

- a. Changeable Sign - "Changeable sign" means an on-premises sign created, designed, manufactured or modified in such a way that its message may be electronically, digitally or mechanically altered by the complete substitution or replacement of one display by another on each side.
- b. Display - "Display" means that portion of the surface area of a changeable sign that is, or is designed to be or is capable of being periodically altered for the purpose of conveying a message.
- c. Message - "Message" means a communication conveyed by means of a visual display of text.

4. REGULATIONS.

- a. The display on each side of the changeable sign may be changed no more frequently than once every twenty (20) seconds.
- b. The display on each side of the changeable sign must change as rapidly as technologically practicable, but the display may change through phasing, rolling, scrolling or blending; provided, however, that the display on each side of a changeable sign shall not flash.
- c. Changeable electronic signs are prohibited on the exterior in the Searsport Historic Overlay Districts and any buildings, structures, objects or sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places; provided, however, that this subsection (c) shall not apply to any sign existing prior to March 11, 2023.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

Pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A §1914 (11-A), the changeable signs within the municipality and displays on each side of those changeable signs shall comply with all other requirements of State law. The Town shall notify the Maine Department of Transportation in writing that it has adopted this Ordinance and shall send it a copy of the same. The Maine Department of Transportation shall administer the provisions of this Ordinance.

DATE OF ENACTMENT: March 9, 2013.

Amended at the Town Meeting on March 11, 2023

This is a true and Attested copy by: _____

Eric Glidden, Town Clerk