§1903. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words have the following meanings. [PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

1. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

1-A. Controlled access highway. "Controlled access highway" means a highway to which, in the interest of safety and efficiency of operation, abutting property owners have no right of direct access and on which the type and location of all access connections are determined and controlled by the department.
[PL 1993, c. 516, §1 (NEW).]

1-B. Controlled access bypass. "Controlled access bypass" means a highway designed to bypass an existing business district and meeting the definition of a controlled access highway.
[PL 1993, c. 516, §1 (NEW).]

1-C. Agricultural product.

[PL 2013, c. 529, §3 (RP).]

2. Erect. "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, display, affix, attach, create, paint, draw or in any other way bring into being or establish.
[PL 2015, c. 403, §1 (AMD).]

3. Interstate system or interstate highway. "Interstate system" or "interstate highway" means any state highway which is or does become part of the national system of interstate or defense highways, as described in the United States Code, Title 23, section 103(d) and amendments thereto or replacements thereof.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

4. Logo. "Logo" means a single or multicolored symbol or design used by a business as a means of identifying its products or services.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

5. Maintain. "Maintain" means to allow to exist.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

6. Motor vehicle. "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle capable of legal operation on the traveled portion of the state highways.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

7. Official business directional sign. "Official business directional sign" means a sign erected and maintained in accordance with this chapter, to indicate to the traveling public the route and distance to public accommodations, facilities, commercial services for the traveling public and points of scenic, historical, cultural, recreational, educational and religious interest. Other information may be displayed by means of logos authorized pursuant to section 1910.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

8. On-premises sign. "On-premises sign" means a sign that is erected and maintained according to the standards set forth in section 1914 upon the real property upon which the business, facility or point of interest advertised by the sign is located, a sign licensed pursuant to section 1914, subsection 4 that is within the portion of the public right-of-way that abuts that real property or an approach sign as permitted by section 1914, subsection 10. The sign may advertise only the business, facility or point of interest at, or the sale, rent or lease of, the property upon which it is located.
[PL 2013, c. 529, §4 (AMD).]

9. Person. "Person" means an individual, corporation, joint venture, partnership or any other legal entity.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

10. Primary system or primary highway. "Primary system" or "primary highway" means any state highway which is or does become part of the federal aid primary system, as described in the United States Code, Title 23, section 103(b) and amendments thereto and replacement thereof.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

10-A. Private way. "Private way" means a private road, driveway or public easement as defined in section 3021.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

10-B. Producer. "Producer" means a person who produces, cultivates, grows or harvests farm and food products, as defined in Title 7, section 415, subsection 1, paragraph B.
[PL 2013, c. 529, §5 (AMD).]

10-C. Principal building or structure. "Principal building or structure" means a building where an advertised business or activity is regularly carried on or practiced or a parking lot or storage or processing area or other structure that is essential and customary to the conduct of the advertised business or activity.
[PL 2013, c. 529, §6 (NEW).]

11. Public way. "Public way" means any road capable of carrying motor vehicles, including, but not limited to, any state highway, municipal road, county road, unincorporated territory road or other road dedicated to the public.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

12. Residential directional sign.

[PL 1981, c. 576, §1 (RP).]

13. Secondary system or secondary highway. "Secondary system" or "secondary highway" means any state highway, but which is not part of the interstate or primary systems.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

14. Sign. "Sign" means any structure, display, logo, device or representation which is designed or used to advertise or call attention to any thing, person, business, activity or place and is visible from any public way. It does not include the flag, pennant or insignia of any nation, state or town. Whenever dimensions of a sign are specified they shall include frames.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

15. State highway or highway. "State highway" or "highway" means any public way which is so designated by this Title, including interstate, primary and secondary highways.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

15-A. Temporary sign. "Temporary sign" means a sign bearing a noncommercial message that has been placed within the public right-of-way for a limited period of time.
[PL 2015, c. 403, §2 (NEW).]

16. Traffic control sign or device. "Traffic control sign or device" means an official route marker, warning sign, sign directing traffic to or from a community, bridge, ferry or airport, or sign regulating traffic, which has been erected by officers having jurisdiction over the public way and these signs shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter.
[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

16-A. Urban compact municipality. "Urban compact municipality" has the same meaning as described in section 754, subsection 2, paragraph B.
[PL 2019, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

17. Visible. "Visible" means capable of being seen without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

[PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 494, §1 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 477, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 318, §1 (RPR). PL 1981, c. 576, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 516, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 635, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 115, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 529, §§3-6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 403, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 228, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.