

called for in Section 1 of Senate 143 seeks to have the exception in this law removed, and the right of the municipalities to make local regulations for billboards put upon the same basis as that to make other local ordinances consistent with the general laws, such for example, as building regulations. Houses, stores, and factories are as important in the community as billboards, but local building regulations consistent with the general laws and state regulations do not have to receive the approval of any state commission in order to be effective. (See G. L. Chapter 143, Section 3, also Chapter 40, Section 25.) The same is true of every other local ordinance whatever, except this particular case. Why should billboards receive special advantage over houses and everything else that requires regulation?

This bill, after passage by the House last year, was referred by the Senate to the present session in order to allow additional time for the Commissioners of Public Works to redraft the general State regulations for restricting billboards that they were required to issue under the law of 1920. It was argued that a town could not be sure that its local rules were consistent with the state regulations until the latter were issued in their amended form. These amended regulations being now issued and in force, there is no further reason for postponing this legislation.

That there is need of further local regulations in many cases is beyond doubt. Take two examples only, for illustration. First, towns may want to restrict the height to which billboards shall be erected above the ground in some locations. The state rules limit the vertical width of the boards to 12 or 14 feet,