
By: **Calvert County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County - Road Signage Pilot Program - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Calvert County to establish a
4 Road Signage Pilot Program; requiring the Calvert County Economic
5 Development Sign Committee to operate the Program in consultation with the
6 Department of Business and Economic Development and the State Highway
7 Administration; authorizing the Committee to place information and business
8 signs providing certain information on State highways; requiring the Committee
9 to adopt certain rules and regulations governing information or business signs;
10 requiring that the information or business signs conform with federal law;
11 requiring the Committee to report results of the Program to the Governor and
12 General Assembly by a certain date; providing a penalty for unlawful removal,
13 damage or defacing of certain signs; and generally relating to establishment of a
14 Road Signage Pilot Program in Calvert County.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article - Transportation
17 Section 8-605
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article - Transportation
22 Section 8-605.1
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
26 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

27 **Article - Transportation**

1 (a) Along any State highway, the Administration may place signs, signals, or
2 markers to inform the traveling public of directions, distances, danger, or other
3 information.

4 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
5 Administration shall assume the full cost of installing and maintaining traffic signals
6 required at the intersection of a State highway with any municipal street or highway
7 or at any other place along a State highway that is within the limits of any municipal
8 corporation.

9 (2) This subsection does not apply where the traffic signal primarily will
10 serve traffic generated by a private development, such as an apartment complex,
11 shopping center, industrial plant, or drive-in theater.

12 (c) Signs, signals, and markers placed along any interstate highway shall
13 conform to all applicable federal standards.

14 (d) (1) For the purpose of providing information to the driving public on the
15 availability of gas, food, lodging, or camping, the Administration may place along
16 State highways specific information or business signs, subject to the applicable
17 federal standards.

18 (2) (i) The Administration shall adopt rules and regulations governing
19 specific information or business signs.

20 (ii) The rules and regulations shall conform to all applicable federal
21 standards, and shall govern the type, lighting, size, number, and location of specific
22 information or business signs.

23 (iii) The Administration shall consult with the Maryland Travel
24 Council prior to drafting rules and regulations.

25 (3) The business or attraction identified in a specific information or
26 business sign shall pay for the full administrative and operational cost of
27 procurement, installation, and maintenance of the sign.

28 (4) The Department of Transportation shall report to the Governor and
29 General Assembly by January, 1986 on the results of the program for specific
30 information signs.

31 (e) Any person who removes, damages, or defaces any sign, signal, or marker
32 placed under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a
33 fine not exceeding \$100.

34 8-605.1.

35 (A) THE GOVERNING BODY OF CALVERT COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH A SIGNAGE
36 PILOT PROGRAM IN THE COUNTY.

1 (B) THE ROAD SIGNAGE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE OPERATED BY THE
2 CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIGN COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION
3 WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE
4 ADMINISTRATION.

5 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION IN THIS TITLE, THE CALVERT
6 COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIGN COMMITTEE MAY PLACE SPECIFIC
7 INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGNS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
8 PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE DRIVING PUBLIC ON THE AVAILABILITY OF GAS,
9 FOOD, LODGING, SHOPPING, AND CAMPING IN NEARBY AREAS, SUBJECT TO
10 APPLICABLE FEDERAL STANDARDS.

11 (D) (1) THE CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIGN COMMITTEE
12 SHALL ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPECIFIC INFORMATION
13 OR BUSINESS SIGNS.

14 (2) THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL CONFORM TO ALL
15 APPLICABLE FEDERAL STANDARDS, AND SHALL GOVERN THE TYPE, LIGHTING, SIZE,
16 NUMBER, AND LOCATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGNS.

17 (3) THE BUSINESS OR ATTRACTION IDENTIFIED IN A SPECIFIC
18 INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGN SHALL PAY FOR THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND
19 OPERATIONAL COST OF PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
20 SIGN.

21 (E) THE CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIGN COMMITTEE
22 SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE
23 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JANUARY 2000 ON THE
24 RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

25 (F) ANY PERSON WHO REMOVES, DAMAGES, OR DEFACTS ANY SIGN, SIGNAL,
26 OR MARKER PLACED UNDER THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON
27 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1998.