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By: **Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery and Prince George's Counties - State Highway Administration**  
3 **Road Signage Pilot Program**  
4 **MC/PG 6-99**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to establish a Road  
6 Signage Pilot Program to promote economic development in Montgomery and  
7 Prince George's Counties; authorizing the governing bodies of Montgomery and  
8 Prince George's Counties to participate in the Program; authorizing the  
9 participating counties to place information and business signs providing certain  
10 information on State highways in consultation with the Department of Business  
11 and Economic Development and the State Highway Administration; requiring  
12 the participating counties to adopt certain regulations governing information or  
13 business signs; requiring that the information or business signs conform with  
14 federal law; requiring the Administration to make a certain report with  
15 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by a certain date;  
16 providing a penalty for unlawfully removing, damaging, or defacing certain  
17 signs; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
18 establishment of a Road Signage Pilot Program in Montgomery and Prince  
19 George's Counties by the State Highway Administration.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 Article - Transportation  
22 Section 8-605  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

25 BY adding to  
26 Article - Transportation  
27 Section 8-605.1  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Transportation**

4 8-605.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 8-605.1.

2 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A ROAD SIGNAGE PILOT  
3 PROGRAM TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE  
4 GEORGE'S COUNTIES THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS DIRECTING MOTORISTS  
5 TO BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS ALONG STATE  
6 HIGHWAYS.

7 (B) THE GOVERNING BODIES OF MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S  
8 COUNTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ROAD SIGNAGE PILOT PROGRAM.

9 (C) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, THE  
10 GOVERNING BODY OF A PARTICIPATING COUNTY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE  
12 ADMINISTRATION, MAY PLACE SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGNS ALONG  
13 STATE HIGHWAYS IN THE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INFORMATION  
14 TO THE DRIVING PUBLIC ON THE AVAILABILITY OF GAS, FOOD, LODGING, SHOPPING,  
15 AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN NEARBY AREAS.

16 (2) ANY SIGN PLACED ALONG A HIGHWAY BY A PARTICIPATING COUNTY  
17 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL STANDARDS.

18 (D) (1) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNING  
19 BODY OF A PARTICIPATING COUNTY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
20 SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGNS.

21 (2) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL  
22 CONFORM TO ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL STANDARDS AND SHALL GOVERN THE  
23 TYPE, LIGHTING, SIZE, NUMBER, AND LOCATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR  
24 BUSINESS SIGNS.

25 (3) THE BUSINESS OR ATTRACTION IDENTIFIED IN A SPECIFIC  
26 INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGN SHALL PAY FOR THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
27 OPERATIONAL COST OF PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE  
28 SIGN.

29 (E) ANY PERSON WHO REMOVES, DAMAGES, OR DEFACES ANY SIGN, SIGNAL,  
30 OR MARKER PLACED UNDER THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON  
31 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway  
33 Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
34 State Government Article, the General Assembly by January 31, 2001 on the results  
35 of the pilot program established under this Act, including an analysis of the impact  
36 the placement of signs along State highways in Montgomery and Prince George's  
37 Counties has had on economic development and highway safety.

38 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway  
39 Administration, in consultation with the Department of Business and Economic  
40 Development and the governing bodies of the counties participating in the Road

1 Signage Pilot Program shall make recommendations, as part of the report required  
2 under Section 2 of this Act, on the future of the Road Signage Pilot Program.

3 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of  
5 September 30, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
6 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.