
By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration Road Signage Pilot Program - Prince**
3 **George's County**
4 **PG 410-00**

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

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article - Transportation
21 Section 8-605
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article - Transportation
26 Section 8-605.1
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Transportation

2 8-605.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (e) Any person who removes, damages, or defaces any sign, signal, or marker
34 placed under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a
35 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 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
4 THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS DIRECTING MOTORISTS TO BUSINESS
5 ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS.

6 (B) THE GOVERNING BODY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MAY PARTICIPATE
7 IN THE ROAD SIGNAGE PILOT PROGRAM.

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

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

17 (D) (1) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNING
18 BODY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS GOVERNING
19 SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGNS.

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

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

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

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway
32 Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
33 State Government Article, the General Assembly by January 31, 2002 on the results
34 of the pilot program established under this Act, including an analysis of the impact
35 the placement of signs along State highways in Prince George's County has had on
36 economic development and highway safety.

37 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway
38 Administration, in consultation with the Department of Business and Economic
39 Development and the governing body of Prince George's County, shall make

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

3 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
5 September 30, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
6 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.