

HOUSE BILL 1010

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R1

2000 Regular Session
0lr0587

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

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 17, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration Road - Controlled Access Highways - Service**
3 **Signage Pilot Program - Prince 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 modifying the authority of the State Highway Administration (SHA) to place
20 certain signs relating to the availability of certain services along certain State
21 highways; requiring the SHA to consult with specified entities and officials on
22 specified matters; requiring the SHA to report to the Governor and the General
23 Assembly by a specified date on the installation of service signs; and generally
24 relating to the installation of service signs by the SHA along State controlled
25 access highways.

26 BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,

1 Article - Transportation
 2 Section 8-605
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

5 ~~BY adding to~~
 6 ~~Article - Transportation~~
 7 ~~Section 8-605.1~~
 8 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 9 ~~(1993 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)~~

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

12 **Article - Transportation**

13 8-605.

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

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

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

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

27 (d) (1) For the purpose of providing information to the driving public on the
 28 availability of gas, food, lodging, ~~or~~ camping, OR ATTRACTIONS, the Administration
 29 may place along State CONTROLLED ACCESS highways specific ~~information or~~
 30 ~~business~~ SERVICE signs, subject to the applicable federal standards.

31 (2) (i) The Administration shall adopt ~~rules and~~ regulations governing
 32 specific ~~information or business~~ SERVICE signs.

33 (ii) The ~~rules and~~ regulations shall conform to all applicable federal
 34 standards, and shall govern the type, lighting, size, number, and location of specific
 35 ~~information or business~~ SERVICE signs.

36 (iii) The Administration shall consult with ~~the~~

~~1 TYPE, LIGHTING, SIZE, NUMBER, AND LOCATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR
2 BUSINESS SIGNS.~~

~~3 (3) THE BUSINESS OR ATTRACTION IDENTIFIED IN A SPECIFIC
4 INFORMATION OR BUSINESS SIGN SHALL PAY FOR THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND
5 OPERATIONAL COST OF PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
6 SIGN.~~

~~7 (E) ANY PERSON WHO REMOVES, DAMAGES, OR DEFACTS ANY SIGN, SIGNAL,
8 OR MARKER PLACED UNDER THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON
9 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100.~~

~~10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway
11 Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
12 State Government Article, the General Assembly by January 31, 2002 on the results
13 of the pilot program established under this Act, including an analysis of the impact
14 the placement of signs along State highways in Prince George's County has had on
15 economic development and highway safety.~~

~~16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Highway
17 Administration, in consultation with the Department of Business and Economic
18 Development and the governing body of Prince George's County, shall make
19 recommendations, as part of the report required under Section 2 of this Act, on the
20 future of the Road Signage Pilot Program.~~

~~21 SECTION 4. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
22 effect October 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end
23 of September 30, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
24 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~