

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1195 (Delegate Glassman)
Commerce and Government Matters

Highways - Placement of Seasonal Farm-Related Directional Signs

This bill eliminates the requirement for a sign permit issued by the State Highway Administration (SHA) for an outdoor sign within 500 feet of a State highway if the sign directs motorists to a farm or other location where farmers offer produce and other goods for sale. The bill establishes that farm-related directional signs must:

- be intended to be displayed on a seasonal basis up to 60 consecutive days;
- set back 10 feet or more from the property line; and
- have a maximum sign area of 32 square feet and maximum height of 6 feet.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal loss of Transportation Trust Fund revenue (less than \$5,000) as farmers would no longer have to pay \$10 to \$35 annually for an outdoor sign permit. Permit fees vary according to the size of the sign.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Farm owners or other vendors of farm products who would no longer have to pay a sign permit fee would benefit.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not erect or maintain any outdoor sign outside the limits of any municipal corporation and within 500 feet of a State highway, unless he or she has a permit issued by SHA. An outdoor advertising sign permit is not required for a

temporary outdoor sign that advertises the seasonal sale of fresh produce on property that adjoins a State highway by a person who has grown the produce and who owns, rents, or has permission to sell on the property. The sign must, however, comply with public safety requirements related to size and location, conform to all local restrictions and zoning requirements including any applicable time limitation, and conform to certain State restrictions and requirements. The sign must be removed or covered when produce is no longer for sale.

Other types of signs that do not require a permit include those that advertise a Maryland historic shrine or institution, a county or church fair held in this State, a candidate or the support or defeat of any proposition, or real estate for sale.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced as HB 1311 in the 2000 session and as HB 352 in the 1998 session. HB 1311 was heard by the House Rules Committee; no further action was taken. HB 352 received an unfavorable report from the Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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