

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Cardin**  
Requested: October 6, 2003  
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation - Highways - Business Service Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to adopt regulations  
4 requiring the inclusion of the travel distance to certain businesses or attractions  
5 indicated on certain service signs placed along certain State highways; and  
6 generally relating to the requirement to include information about the travel  
7 distance to certain businesses or attractions on certain signs along State  
8 highways.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article - Transportation  
11 Section 4-405  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - Transportation  
16 Section 8-605  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 4-405.

23 (a) For the purpose of providing information to the driving public on the  
24 availability of gas, food, lodging, or camping facilities, the Authority may place along  
25 interstate highways specific information or business signs as defined in the  
26 applicable federal standards.

1 (b) In implementing this program, the Authority shall conform with the  
2 provisions of § 8-605(d) of this article, and shall utilize the rules and regulations  
3 adopted by the State Highway Administration under that subsection.

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, camping, or attractions, the Administration may  
20 place along State controlled access highways specific service signs, subject to the  
21 applicable federal standards.

22 (2) (i) The Administration shall adopt regulations governing specific  
23 service signs.

24 (ii) The regulations shall conform to all applicable federal  
25 standards, and shall:

26 1. [govern] GOVERN the type, lighting, size, number, and  
27 location of specific service signs; AND

28 2. REQUIRE THAT EACH SERVICE SIGN INCLUDE THE  
29 TRAVEL DISTANCE TO THE BUSINESS OR ATTRACTION IDENTIFIED ON THE SERVICE  
30 SIGN.

31 (iii) The Administration shall consult with:

32 1. The Maryland Travel Council prior to drafting  
33 regulations; and

34 2. The Department of Business and Economic Development  
35 and the appropriate local government officials concerning the placement of specific  
36 service signs under this subsection.

1           (3)       The business or attraction identified in a specific service sign shall  
2 pay for the full administrative and operational cost of procurement, installation, and  
3 maintenance of the sign.

4           (4)       The Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance  
5 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before  
6 January 9, 2002 on the installation of service signs along State controlled access  
7 highways under this subsection.

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

11       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2004.