

HOUSE BILL 286

R1

5lr1128

By: **Delegates O'Donnell and Fisher**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Highways – Scenic Byways – Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to issue a permit for a
4 certain sign along or near a scenic byway on a federal–aid primary highway if the
5 sign was erected on or before a certain date or is a directional sign for a certain
6 facility located in a certain area; and generally relating to signs erected along scenic
7 byways.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 8–730
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 8–730.

17 **(A) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE**
18 Administration may not issue a permit for any outdoor sign along or near any federal–aid
19 primary highway, if the sign:

20 (1) Imitates or resembles any official traffic sign, signal, or device;

21 (2) Is erected or maintained on any tree or painted or drawn on any rock
22 or other natural feature;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) Is erected or maintained in a way that:

2 (i) Obscures or otherwise interferes with the effectiveness of an
3 official traffic sign, signal, or device; or

4 (ii) Obstructs or interferes with a driver's view of approaching,
5 merging, or intersecting traffic;

6 (4) Is located within 250 feet of any public park, public forest, playground,
7 or cemetery that is adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway; or

8 (5) Is along or near a scenic byway located on the federal-aid primary
9 highway.

10 **(B) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE A PERMIT FOR AN OUTDOOR SIGN**
11 **ALONG OR NEAR A SCENIC BYWAY LOCATED ON A FEDERAL-AID PRIMARY HIGHWAY**
12 **IF THE SIGN:**

13 **(1) WAS ERECTED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008; OR**

14 **(2) IS A DIRECTIONAL SIGN FOR A FACILITY THAT:**

15 **(I) SELLS PRINCIPALLY LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OR**
16 **AQUACULTURAL PRODUCTS; AND**

17 **(II) IS LOCATED WITHIN A 5-MILE RADIUS OF THE SIGN.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2015.