

**HB0286/790615/1**

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 286

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Highways” and substitute “Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties”; in line 4, after “highway” insert “in Calvert County or St. Mary’s County in conformance with federal law”; in line 6, after “area;” insert “establishing certain standards for a sign erected under this Act; requiring the State Highway Administration to adopt a plan and appropriate policies to implement this Act on or before a certain date;”; and in line 7, after “byways” insert “in Calvert and St. Mary’s counties”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 12, insert:

“Preamble

WHEREAS, Federal law establishes and Federal Highway Administration regulations implement the Federal Highway Beautification Act (federal Act) for the control of outdoor advertising signs on areas adjacent to the federal highway system to protect public investment in the highways, promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and preserve natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, The federal Act disproportionately affects rural and agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS, In Maryland, agriculture and aquaculture are significant contributors to the economy in the rural counties of the State; and

WHEREAS, Many tobacco farmers in the State voluntarily participated in the State sponsored tobacco buyout program, often investing the funds obtained under the

(Over)

program to pursue retail agricultural pursuits, including wineries, fruit and vegetable farms, nurseries, and agritourism; and

WHEREAS, These retail agricultural operations rely heavily on directional signs to attract business; and

WHEREAS, The federal Act and federal regulations recognize that prohibiting or removing directional signs that provide information about goods and services to the travelling public may cause substantial economic hardship and thus provide certain exemptions; and

WHEREAS, These retail agricultural operations would have been able to have their signs remain in place lawfully under State law had the permits been issued before 2011; now, therefore,.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, in line 10, before “**THE**” insert “**(1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN CALVERT COUNTY AND ST. MARY’S COUNTY.**”

**(2)**”;

in line 10, after “**MAY**” insert “**, IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW,**”; in lines 13, 14, 15, and 17, strike “**(1)**”, “**(2)**”, “**(I)**”, and “**(II)**”, respectively, and substitute “**(I)**”, “**(II)**”, “**1.**”, and “**2.**”, respectively; after line 17, insert:

**“(3) A SIGN ERECTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ERECTED AND MAINTAINED IN A MANNER THAT IS SAFE AND DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE SCENIC OR CULTURAL CHARACTER OF THE SCENIC BYWAY ALONG WHICH THE SIGN IS LOCATED.”;**

in line 18, after “That” insert “the State Highway Administration shall develop a plan and appropriate policies to implement this Act on or before October 1, 2015.”

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That”;

and in line 19, strike “October” and substitute “June”.