

HOUSE BILL 54

R1

(PRE-FILED)

8lr0769
CF 8lr0506

By: **Delegate Lam**

Requested: October 5, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration – Sale or Lease of Naming Rights for Rest Areas**
3 **and Welcome Centers**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to sell or lease to a
5 private entity the naming rights for rest areas and welcome centers along State
6 highways; requiring the term of a contract for the sale or lease of naming rights for
7 rest areas and welcome centers to be at least a certain period of time; prohibiting the
8 Administration from selling or leasing highway naming rights under this Act unless
9 the Administration makes a certain determination regarding compliance of the
10 proposed use of the naming rights with federal regulations and the distribution of
11 certain federal funds; providing that a sale or lease of naming rights for a rest area
12 or welcome center may not be construed to require that any official State highway
13 sign or mailing address be altered; authorizing a private entity that purchases or
14 leases the naming rights for a rest area or welcome center to erect certain outdoor
15 signs along the highway; requiring a private entity that erects outdoor signs along a
16 State highway under this Act to pay all costs associated with the signs; requiring
17 outdoor signs erected by a private entity along a State highway to comply with
18 certain requirements; requiring proceeds from the sale or lease of naming rights for
19 a rest area or welcome center to be credited to the Transportation Trust Fund;
20 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the sale or lease of naming rights
21 for rest areas or welcome centers along State highway rights-of-way.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
23 Article – Transportation
24 Section 8–204(h)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

27 BY adding to
28 Article – Transportation

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 8–208
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Transportation**

7 8–204.

8 (h) By rules or regulations consistent with the safety and welfare of the traveling
9 public, the Administration may govern the control and use of rest areas, scenic overlooks,
10 roadside picnic areas, and other public use areas within State highway rights-of-way.

11 **8–208.**

12 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
13 INDICATED.

14 (2) “ERECT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8–701 OF THIS TITLE.

15 (3) “OUTDOOR SIGN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8–701 OF THIS
16 TITLE.

17 (4) “PRIVATE ENTITY” INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL, A CORPORATION, A
18 GENERAL OR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, A JOINT
19 VENTURE, A BUSINESS TRUST, A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION, A NONPROFIT
20 ENTITY, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY.

21 (B) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
22 ADMINISTRATION MAY SELL OR LEASE TO A PRIVATE ENTITY THE NAMING RIGHTS
23 FOR REST AREAS OR WELCOME CENTERS WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

24 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT SELL OR LEASE TO A
25 PRIVATE ENTITY THE NAMING RIGHTS FOR REST AREAS OR WELCOME CENTERS
26 WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION
27 DETERMINES THAT THE PROPOSED USE OF THE NAMING RIGHTS AND SIGNAGE
28 ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED USE OF THE NAMING RIGHTS IS IN COMPLIANCE
29 WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL
30 HIGHWAY FUNDS TO THE STATE.

31 (2) THE TERM OF A CONTRACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ENTERS
32 INTO UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AT LEAST 1 YEAR.

1 **(C) A SALE OR LEASE OF NAMING RIGHTS UNDER THIS SECTION IS SOLELY**
2 **FOR SPONSORSHIP PURPOSES AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THAT ANY**
3 **OFFICIAL STATE HIGHWAY SIGN OR MAILING ADDRESS BE ALTERED.**

4 **(D) (1) A PRIVATE ENTITY THAT PURCHASES OR LEASES NAMING RIGHTS**
5 **FOR A REST AREA OR WELCOME CENTER WITHIN A STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY**
6 **UNDER THIS SECTION MAY ERECT OUTDOOR SIGNS ALONG THE HIGHWAY FOR THE**
7 **PURPOSE OF SPONSORING THE DESIGNATION.**

8 **(2) ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR SIGNS ERECTED UNDER**
9 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID BY THE PRIVATE ENTITY THAT PURCHASES OR**
10 **LEASES THE NAMING RIGHTS FOR THE REST AREA OR WELCOME CENTER,**
11 **INCLUDING THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, OPERATION,**
12 **MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL OF THE SIGNS.**

13 **(3) OUTDOOR SIGNS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:**

14 **(I) MAY NOT BE ERECTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY:**

15 **1. THE ADMINISTRATION; AND**

16 **2. THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION IF**
17 **NECESSARY TO SECURE FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS;**

18 **(II) MAY NOT DETRACT FROM THE SAFETY OF THE TRAVELING**
19 **PUBLIC, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;**

20 **(III) SHALL CONFORM TO ALL DESIGN AND PLACEMENT**
21 **GUIDELINES FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT SIGNS PROVIDED IN THE FEDERAL MANUAL**
22 **ON UNIFORM CONTROL DEVICES FOR STREETS AND HIGHWAYS;**

23 **(IV) MAY NOT INCLUDE A NAME OR LOGO THAT IN THE**
24 **JUDGMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION:**

25 **1. IS PROFANE, OBSCENE, OR VULGAR;**

26 **2. IS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT OR GRAPHIC;**

27 **3. RELATES TO EXCRETORY FUNCTIONS;**

28 **4. IS DESCRIPTIVE OF THE GENITALS OR OTHER**
29 **INTIMATE PARTS OF A BODY;**

