

SENATE BILL 34

R1

9lr0510

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Young**

Requested: September 27, 2018

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2019

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Tourist Area and Corridor Program and Task Force on Attraction Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Tourist Area and Corridor Program in the State
4 Highway Administration; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the
5 Administration to administer the Program; requiring the Administration to adopt
6 regulations to implement the Program; requiring the regulations to contain certain
7 provisions; providing that certain individual attractions are eligible for a sign;
8 establishing the Task Force on Attraction Signs; providing for the composition, chair,
9 and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving
10 certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
11 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
12 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the
13 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
14 termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to programs that
15 provide for the erection of attraction signs.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Transportation

18 Section 8–605.1

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 **8–605.1.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) THERE IS A TOURIST AREA AND CORRIDOR PROGRAM IN THE**
2 **ADMINISTRATION.**

3 **(B) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE TOURIST AREA AND CORRIDOR PROGRAM**
4 **IS TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE SIGNS THAT DIRECT**
5 **MOTORISTS TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL ATTRACTIONS WITHIN A GEOGRAPHICAL**
6 **AREA.**

7 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE TOURIST AREA**
8 **AND CORRIDOR PROGRAM.**

9 **(C) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO**
10 **IMPLEMENT THE TOURIST AREA AND CORRIDOR PROGRAM.**

11 **(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL ESTABLISH:**

12 **(I) THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO CREATE AN AREA IN WHICH**
13 **ATTRACTION SIGNS MAY BE ERECTED;**

14 **(II) THE TYPE OF SIGNS THAT MAY BE ERECTED;**

15 **(III) THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL**
16 **ATTRACTION TO APPLY FOR A SIGN;**

17 **(IV) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
18 **CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ATTRACTION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SIGN;**

19 **(V) A USER FEE TO BE PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL ATTRACTION**
20 **THAT IS A RETAIL BUSINESS FOR WHICH A SIGN IS ERECTED; AND**

21 **(VI) ANY OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
22 **SECTION.**

23 **(3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER**
24 **SUBPARAGRAPH (2)(IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL**
25 **ATTRACTIONS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SIGN:**

26 **(I) AN ARTIST'S OR ARTISAN'S STUDIO;**

27 **(II) A BREWERY, CIDERY, DISTILLERY, OR MEADERY;**

28 **(III) A FACILITY USED FOR AGRITOURISM; AND**

1 **(IV) A PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.**

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

3 (a) There is a Task Force on Attraction Signs.

4 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

5 (1) 2 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the
6 Senate;

7 (2) 2 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
8 House;

9 (3) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee; and

10 (4) the Administrator of the State Highway Administration, or the
11 Administrator's designee.

12 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

13 (d) The State Highway Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
17 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) The Task Force shall:

19 (1) review each State program that provides for the erection of attraction
20 signs; and

21 (2) make recommendations regarding:

22 (i) consolidating the programs;

23 (ii) streamlining the application and review processes of the
24 programs; and

25 (iii) potential funding measures to support the programs.

26 (g) On or before October 1, 2020, the Task Force shall report its findings and
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2019. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1
3 month and, at the end of October 31, 2020, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action
4 required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.