

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 24-034

Brief Title (Zoning-Chapter 267-33-Signs)

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Mylia A. Dixon
Council Administrator

Date 12/3/24

ENROLLED

John S. Vincent
Council President

Date 12/3/24

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 24-031

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Mylia A. Dixon
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 4th
Day of December, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Mylia A. Dixon
Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date _____

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 24-034 having received neither the approval nor disapproval of the Executive within twenty-one (21) days of its presentation, becomes law on December 26, 2024.

EFFECTIVE: February 24, 2025



COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

PATRICK S. VINCENTI
President

VACANT
District A

JAMES REILLY
District D

AARON D. PENMAN
District B

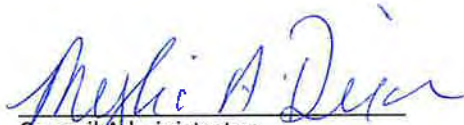
JESSICA BOYLE-TSOTTLES
District E

TONY "G" GIANGIORDANO
District C

JACOB BENNETT
District F

December 18, 2024

This journal entry is pursuant to Section 311 of the Harford County Charter Bill 24-034 (Zoning-Chapter 267-33-Signs) was presented to County Executive Robert Cassilly on December 4, 2024. Mr. Cassilly returned Bill 24-034 (Zoning-Chapter 264-33-Signs) on December 17, 2024, unsigned with no message. Therefore, Bill 24-034 (Zoning-Chapter 267-33-Signs) shall become Law on December 26, 2024, and effective February 2025.


Council Administrator
Mylia A. Dixon

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 24-034

Introduced by Council President Vincenti and Council Members Guthrie, Penman, Giangiordano, Reilly, Boyle-Tsottles and Bennett

Legislative Day No. 24-027 Date October 15, 2024

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Subsection B, General Provisions, of Section 267-33, Signs, of Article V, Supplementary Regulations, of Part 1, Standards, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to clarify how many electronic message board freestanding and wall signs are permitted on a property; and generally related to zoning.

By the Council, October 15, 2024

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: November 19, 2024

at: 7:00 PM

By Order: *Mylicia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on November 19, 2024, and concluded on November 19, 2024.

Mylicia A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Subsection B, General Provisions, of Section 267-33, Signs, of Article V, Supplementary Regulations, of Part 1, Standards, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Chapter 267. Zoning

Part 1. Standards

Article V. Supplementary Regulations

§ 267-33. Signs.

B. General Provisions. Signage shall be constructed in an unobtrusive manner which compliments the architectural elements of quality, style, color and material of the building, and the architectural period of the buildings(s). The following broad categories of sign types are regulated by this section unless otherwise provided herein:

- (1) Canopy signs. A canopy sign must have its lowest point no closer than 8 feet to the ground.
- (2) Freestanding signs. The maximum area of any freestanding sign shall not exceed 120 square feet. The setback measured to the edge of the sign shall be equal to 1/3 of the required building setback. Unless otherwise provided herein, the maximum height allowed for any freestanding sign is 20 feet measured from the road grade. If the elevation of the property where the sign is to be located is above road grade, the maximum height of the sign may be increased 1 foot in height for every 1 foot of elevation above the road grade. In no instance shall the height of a freestanding sign exceed 30 feet above the road grade. Except as otherwise provided for herein, electronic message boards are permitted as freestanding signs in the B1, B2, B3, CI, LI and GI Zoning Districts [and are limited to 1 single-or doubled-sided sign per road

frontage]. Temporary or portable electronic message boards are not permitted. Electronic message boards shall not exceed 60 square feet in size, and shall display only on-premises messages, or time and/or temperature displays. An electronic message board shall consist only of alphabetic or numeric characters and shall not include any graphic, pictorial or photographic images or videos. The appearance of any animation, motion, flashing, blinking or shimmering is not permitted. A single message, or segment of a message, shall have a display time of at least 2 seconds, including the time needed to move the message onto the sign board, with all segments of the total message to be displayed within 10 seconds. A display travelling horizontally across the message board shall move between 16 and 32 light columns per second. Requirements for display times do not apply to time and/or temperature displays.

- (3) Wall signs. Wall signs shall include all flat signs which are placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear or side wall of any building or other structure. Flat wall mounted signs may be located on any wall of a building and may extend not more than 8 feet above the parapet wall or roofline of the building to which they are attached. However, no window, or part of a window, shall be covered by the sign area or its supporting structure. Except as otherwise provided for herein, electronic message boards are permitted as wall signs in the B1, B2, B3, CI, LI and GI Zoning Districts. Electronic message boards shall not exceed 20 square feet in size, and shall display only on-premises messages, or time and/or temperature displays. An electronic message board shall consist only of alphabetic or numeric characters and shall not include any graphic, pictorial or photographic images or videos. The

appearance of any animation, motion, flashing, blinking or shimmering is not permitted. A single message, or segment of a message, shall have a display time of at least 2 seconds, including the time needed to move the message onto the sign board, with all segments of the total message to be displayed within 10 seconds. A display travelling horizontally across the message board shall move between 16 and 32 light columns per second. Requirements for display times do not apply to time and/or temperature displays. [Only one electronic message board shall be permitted on a premise whether it be a freestanding sign or a wall sign.]

(4) Temporary Signs. The maximum number of temporary signs a property may have in any 1 calendar year is 2. Temporary signs may be displayed for periods not exceeding 30 consecutive calendar days and not exceeding 60 calendar days in any 1 year.

(5) Projecting signs. Projecting signs may not extend over public rights-of-way, or project more than 4 feet from the wall of a building. Projecting signs may not have less than 10 feet clearance, as measured vertically from the ground to the bottom of the sign or supporting structure, and shall not exceed a height of 25 feet, as measured vertically from the ground to the top of the sign or supporting structure. Projecting signs shall have a maximum sign area of 60 square feet.

(6) Directional signs. Unless otherwise provided herein, the maximum area of any directional sign shall not exceed 6 square feet. Directional signs can be located at the nearest intersection of any major collector or arterial road and set back 10 feet from the property line. Unless other provided herein, the maximum height allowed for any directional sign is 6 feet above the nearest public road grade.

(7) Billboards.

(a) General. Billboards shall be permitted in the General Industrial (GI) District only. New billboards may not be constructed within the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor or the Edgewood Neighborhood Overlay District (ENOD).

(b) Location. Billboards shall be limited to 1 per parcel. Billboards shall not be permitted to be erected within 750 feet of any residence, historic structure or building as defined in §267-4 (Definitions), public square or the entrance to any public park, public, private or parochial school, library, church or similar institution. All such signs shall be set back from the front property line the distance required for a principal building in the zoning district in which located. No billboard shall be permitted to be erected within 100 feet of a road intersection unless the base of the sign is not less than 10 feet above ground level or road surface, whichever is higher. No billboard shall be erected within 660 feet of any highway which is part of the interstate highway system.

(c) Height. A billboard shall be no more than 30 feet in height from road grade.

(d) Area. The maximum area of any billboard shall not exceed 300 square feet.

(e) Illumination. Illumination shall be in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(8) Permanent residential entrance, and continuing care retirement community (CCRC) signs. Residential entrance, development project identification and CCRC signs, with letters or advertising area not to exceed a total area of 48 square feet, shall be permitted on the property, provided that it is located not less than 10 feet from the road right-of-way. In addition, the height of the sign or structure shall not exceed 6 feet. If the

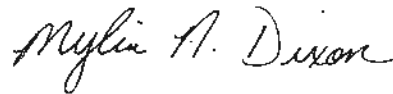
94 parcel or lot has a multiple frontage of at least 50 feet, additional signs with letters or
95 advertising area, not to exceed a total of 48 square feet, shall be permitted. Such sign or
96 structure shall not exceed 6 feet in height and shall not be located less than 10 feet
97 from the road right-of-way. Said signs may be split entrance signs; however, the
98 overall advertising area may not exceed 48 square feet.

99 (9) ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS SHALL BE LIMITED TO ONE SIGN, OF
100 ANY PERMITTED TYPE, PER PROPERTY.

101 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date
102 it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: February 24, 2025

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*



Council Administrator