

1 AN ACT relating to advertising devices and declaring an emergency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 177.830 is repealed, reenacted, and amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 177.830 to 177.890, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 5 (1) "Limited-access highway" means a road or highway or bridge constructed pursuant  
6 to the provisions of KRS 177.220 to 177.310;
- 7 (2) "Interstate highway" means any highway, road, street, access facility, bridge, or  
8 overpass which is designated as a portion of the national system of interstate and  
9 defense highways as may be established by law, or as may be so designated by the  
10 Transportation Cabinet in the joint construction of the system by the Transportation  
11 Cabinet and the United States Department of Transportation, Bureau of Public  
12 Roads;
- 13 (3) "Federal-aid primary highway" means any highway, road, street, appurtenant  
14 facility, bridge, or overpass which is designated as a portion of the federal-aid  
15 primary highway system as may be established by law or as may be so designated  
16 by the Transportation Cabinet and the United States Department of Transportation;
- 17 (4) "Turnpike" means any road or highway or appurtenant facility constructed pursuant  
18 to the provisions of KRS 177.390 to 177.570, or pursuant to the provisions of any  
19 other definition of "turnpike" in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, or any other  
20 highway, road, parkway, bridge, or street upon which a toll or fee is charged for the  
21 use of motor vehicular traffic;
- 22 (5) "Advertising device" means any billboard, sign, notice, poster, display, or other  
23 device, ***including the structure erected or used in connection with the display or***  
24 ***device and all lighting or other attachments used in connection with the display***  
25 ***or device, that is:***
- 26 ***(a) Operated or owned by a person or entity who is earning compensation***  
27 ***directly or indirectly from a third party or parties for the placement of a***

1           message on the device; and

2           **(b)** Intended to attract the attention of operators of motor vehicles on the  
3           highways~~], and shall include a structure erected or used in connection with~~  
4           ~~the display of any device and all lighting or other attachments used in~~  
5           ~~connection therewith. However, it does not include directional or other official~~  
6           ~~signs or signals erected by the state or other public agency having~~  
7           ~~jurisdiction];~~

8           (6) "Highway or highways" as used in KRS 177.830 to 177.890 means limited access  
9           highway, interstate highway, federal-aid primary highway, or turnpike as defined in  
10          KRS 177.830 to 177.890;

11          (7) "Commercial or industrial zone" adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway means  
12          an area zoned to permit business, commerce or trade pursuant to lawful ordinance  
13          or regulation;

14          (8) "Unzoned commercial or industrial area" adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway  
15          means an area which is not zoned by state or local law, regulation, or ordinance and  
16          on which either a commercial or industrial activity is conducted or a permanent  
17          structure therefor is located together with the area extending along the highway for  
18          such distances as may be determined by regulation promulgated by the secretary of  
19          the Transportation Cabinet. Each side of the highway will be considered separately  
20          in applying this definition--all measurements shall be from the outer edges of the  
21          regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing areas of the activities,  
22          not from the property lines of the activities, and shall be along or parallel the edge  
23          of the pavement of the highway;

24          (9) "Commercial or industrial activities" for purposes of unzoned industrial and  
25          commercial areas means those activities generally recognized as commercial or  
26          industrial by zoning authorities in this state, except that none of the following  
27          activities shall be considered commercial or industrial:

- 1 (a) Outdoor advertising structures;
- 2 (b) Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming, and related activities,
- 3 including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands;
- 4 (c) Activities normally or regularly in operation less than three (3) months of the
- 5 year;
- 6 (d) Transient or temporary activities;
- 7 (e) Activities not visible from the main traveled way;
- 8 (f) Activities more than 300 feet from the nearest edge of the right-of-way;
- 9 (g) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence;
- 10 (h) Railroad tracks and minor sidings;~~[-]~~

11 (10) "Urban areas" means those areas having a population of five thousand (5,000) or

12 more which have been designated by the United States Department of Commerce,

13 Bureau of the Census, as an urban area. A list of cities which have designated urban

14 areas shall be maintained by the Transportation Cabinet, Division of Planning,

15 Frankfort, Kentucky 40622. The Transportation Cabinet shall maintain maps

16 indicating the boundaries of the designated areas. The maps shall be available from

17 the Transportation Cabinet for a fee not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00); and

18 **(11) "Compensation" means the exchange of anything of value, including money,**

19 **securities, real property interests, personal property interests, goods or services,**

20 **promises of future payments, or forbearance of debt.**

21 ➔Section 2. KRS 177.841 is repealed, reenacted, and amended to read as follows:

22 (1) Except as otherwise provided in KRS 177.830 to 177.890, the erection or

23 maintenance of any advertising device upon or within six hundred sixty (660) feet

24 of the right-of-way of any interstate highway or federal-aid primary highway is

25 prohibited.

26 (2) The erection or maintenance of any advertising device located outside of an urban

27 area and beyond six hundred sixty (660) feet of the right-of-way which is legible

1 and/or identifiable from the main traveled way of any interstate highway or federal-  
2 aid primary highway is prohibited~~[with the exception of:~~

3 ~~(a) Directional and official signs and notices;~~

4 ~~(b) Signs advertising the sale or lease of property upon which they are located; or~~

5 ~~(c) Signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which they are~~  
6 ~~located].~~

7 **(3) This section shall not apply to directional or other official signs or signals erected**  
8 **by the state or any other public agency having jurisdiction.**

9 ➔Section 3. KRS 177.860 is repealed, reenacted, and amended to read as follows:

10 **The Transportation Cabinet**~~[The commissioner of the Department of Highways]~~ shall  
11 **promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, no later**  
12 **than August 1, 2021, to establish:**~~[prescribe by regulations]~~

13 **(1) Permit fees for advertising devices not to exceed:**

14 **(a) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the initial permit application review,**  
15 **site and compliance inspection, and permit issuance; and**

16 **(b) One hundred dollars (\$100) for an annual permit renewal; and**

17 **(2)** Reasonable standards for the advertising devices hereinafter enumerated, designed  
18 to protect the safety of and to guide the users of the highways and otherwise to  
19 achieve the objectives set forth in KRS 177.850, and the erection and maintenance  
20 of any of the following advertising devices, if they comply with the regulations,  
21 shall not be deemed a violation of KRS 177.830 to 177.890:

22 **(a) Signs, notices, posters, displays, or other devices that do not meet the**  
23 **definition of advertising device as set forth in Section 1 of this Act**~~[(1) An~~

24 ~~advertising device which is to be erected or maintained on property for the~~  
25 ~~purpose of setting forth or indicating:~~

26 ~~(a) The name and address of the owner, lessee, or occupant of the property; or~~

27 ~~(b) The name or type of business or profession conducted on the property; or~~

1 ~~(c) Information required or authorized by law to be posted or displayed on the~~  
 2 ~~advertising device];~~

3 ~~(b)(2)~~ An advertising device which is not visible from any traveled portion of  
 4 the highway; ***and***

5 ~~(c)(3) An advertising device indicating the sale or leasing of the property upon~~  
 6 ~~which it is placed;~~

7 ~~(4)~~ Advertising devices which otherwise comply with the applicable zoning ordinances  
 8 and regulations of any county or city, and which are to be located in a commercially  
 9 or industrially developed area, in which the commissioner of highways determines,  
 10 in exercise of his sound discretion, that the location of the advertising devices is  
 11 compatible with the safety and convenience of the traveling public.

12 ➔Section 4. KRS 177.863 is repealed, reenacted, and amended to read as follows:

13 Within any commercial or industrial zone or unzoned commercial or industrial area  
 14 adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway, advertising devices shall be subject to the  
 15 following standards:

16 (1) Prohibited advertising devices:

17 (a) Advertising devices that are not clean and in good repair.

18 (b) Advertising devices that are not securely affixed to a substantial structure.

19 (c) Advertising devices which attempt or appear to attempt to direct the  
 20 movement of traffic or which interfere with, imitate or resemble any official  
 21 traffic sign, signal or device.

22 (d) Advertising devices which obstruct the view of official signs, or approaching  
 23 and merging traffic.

24 (e) Advertising devices on trees, or painted upon natural features.

25 (f) Advertising devices exceeding one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) square  
 26 feet on each face including border and trim, but excluding supports.

27 (g) Advertising devices advertising an activity that is illegal under state or federal

1 law.

2 (h) Obsolete advertising devices.

3 (2) Spacing of advertising devices:

4 (a) No advertising device structure designed to be primarily viewed from a non-  
5 limited access federal-aid primary highway shall be erected within three  
6 hundred (300) feet of any other such advertising device structure on the same  
7 side of the highway, unless separated by a building, natural obstruction or  
8 roadway. Provided, however, that in an incorporated municipality such  
9 required distance shall be reduced to one hundred (100) feet.

10 (b) Double-faced -- V-type and/or back-to-back advertising device structures shall  
11 be one advertising device for spacing purposes.

12 (c) The minimum distance between advertising devices shall be measured along  
13 the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the  
14 advertising devices.

15 ~~[(d) Advertising devices advertising the sale or lease of the property on which they  
16 are located, or advertising the activity conducted thereon, are permitted, and  
17 shall not cause any other advertising device to be in violation of this chapter;  
18 notwithstanding any contrary provision.]~~

19 (3) Size of advertising devices:

20 (a) The maximum area for any advertising device shall be one thousand two  
21 hundred fifty (1,250) square feet, including border and trim but excluding  
22 supports.

23 (b) An advertising device structure may contain one (1) or two (2) advertisements  
24 per facing, not to exceed the maximum area.

25 (c) Double faced structures will be permitted with the maximum area being  
26 allowed for each facing.

27 (4) Lighting of advertising devices:

1 Advertising devices may be illuminated, subject to the following restrictions:

2 (a) Advertising devices which contain, include or are illuminated by any flashing,  
3 intermittent, or moving light or lights are prohibited, except those giving  
4 public service information such as time, date, temperature, weather, or similar  
5 information.

6 (b) Advertising devices which are not effectively shielded as to prevent beams or  
7 rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled way of the  
8 highway which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair  
9 the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with  
10 any driver's operation of a motor vehicle are prohibited.

11 (c) No advertising device shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the  
12 effectiveness of or obscures an official traffic sign, device or signal.

13 ➔Section 5. KRS 177.842 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

14 KRS 177.830(10) in conjunction with the prohibition of KRS 177.841(2) shall extend to  
15 all applicable outdoor advertising devices erected after January 1, 1976, unless previously  
16 determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in compliance with the laws,  
17 regulations, and rules governing outdoor advertising devices or were situated in an area  
18 which was authorized by an existing or previous statute.

19 ➔Section 6. KRS 177.850 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

20 The general purposes of KRS 177.830 to 177.890 and its specific objectives and  
21 standards are:

22 (1) To provide for maximum visibility along interstate highways, limited-access  
23 highways, federal-aid primary highways, turnpikes, and connecting roads or  
24 highways;

25 (2) To prevent unreasonable distraction of operators of motor vehicles;

26 (3) To prevent confusion with regard to traffic lights, signs or signals or otherwise  
27 interfere with the effectiveness of traffic regulations;

1 (4) To preserve and enhance the natural scenic beauty or the aesthetic features of the  
2 aforementioned interstate highways, limited-access highways, federal-aid primary  
3 highways, turnpikes, and adjacent areas;

4 (5) To promote maximum safety, comfort and well-being of the users of said highways.

5 ➔Section 7. KRS 177.867 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

6 (1) The commissioner of the Department of Highways is authorized to acquire by  
7 purchase, gift, or condemnation pursuant to the Eminent Domain Act of Kentucky  
8 and shall pay just compensation upon the removal of the following advertising  
9 devices:

10 (a) Those lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965;

11 (b) Those lawfully on any highway designated a part of the interstate or federal-  
12 aid primary system on or after October 22, 1965, and before January 1, 1968;

13 (c) Those lawfully erected on or after January 1, 1968;

14 (d) Those lawfully in existence on January 1, 1976; and

15 (e) Those lawfully erected or maintained, or both, between January 1, 1976, and  
16 December 31, 1989.

17 (2) Compensation shall be paid for the following:

18 (a) The taking from the owner of any such advertising device of all right, title,  
19 leasehold, and interest in such advertising device; and

20 (b) The taking from the owner of the real property on which the advertising  
21 device is located, of the right to erect and maintain such advertising devices  
22 thereon.

23 ➔Section 8. KRS 177.870 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

24 Any advertising device erected, maintained, replaced, relocated, repaired or restored in  
25 violation of KRS 177.830 to 177.890 is hereby declared to be, and is, a public nuisance  
26 and such device may without notice be abated and removed by any officer or employee of  
27 the state Department of Highways or upon request of the commissioner by any peace

1 officer.

2 →Section 9. KRS 177.880 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 Nothing in KRS 177.830 to 177.890 shall be construed to abrogate or affect the  
4 provisions of any municipal ordinance, regulation or resolution which is more restrictive  
5 concerning advertising devices than the provisions of KRS 177.830 to 177.890 or of the  
6 regulations adopted hereunder; provided that no city, county or urban-county government  
7 and no commission, agency or department of any of the foregoing, or any person acting  
8 under authority directly or indirectly conferred by any municipal ordinance, regulation or  
9 resolution shall have any authority to require any sign or other advertising device which is  
10 within its jurisdiction, which was lawfully erected or installed and which is maintained in  
11 good repair to be removed without payment of just compensation as provided under KRS  
12 177.867(2).

13 →Section 10. KRS 177.890 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

14 The commissioner of highways is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the  
15 United States Secretary of Transportation for the purpose of carrying out the national  
16 policy of promoting the safety, convenience and enjoyment of public travel and the free  
17 flow of interstate commerce and the protection of the public investment in the national  
18 system of interstate and defense highways and federal-aid primary highways within the  
19 Commonwealth.

20 →Section 11. Whereas ensuring that Kentucky advertising devices are regulated  
21 for the safety of the traveling public is a compelling and immediate need and a recent  
22 court ruling has questioned the Commonwealth's regulatory authority to do so under  
23 existing law, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage  
24 and approval by the Governor or upon it otherwise becoming law.