

SENATE BILL 955

R1

6lr3449
CF 6lr3131

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Federal-Aid Primary Highways – Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to issue a permit for a
4 sign along or near a federal-aid primary highway if the sign is a directional sign for
5 a historic, cultural, or educational site that is naturally suited for outdoor recreation;
6 and generally relating to signs erected along or near federal-aid primary highways.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 8–730
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 8–730.

16 (a) Except as provided in [subsection (b)] **SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C)** of this
17 section, the Administration may not issue a permit for any outdoor sign along or near any
18 federal-aid primary highway, if the sign:

19 (1) Imitates or resembles any official traffic sign, signal, or device;

20 (2) Is erected or maintained on any tree or painted or drawn on any rock
21 or other natural feature;

22 (3) Is erected or maintained in a way that:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Obscures or otherwise interferes with the effectiveness of an
2 official traffic sign, signal, or device; or

3 (ii) Obstructs or interferes with a driver's view of approaching,
4 merging, or intersecting traffic;

5 (4) Is located within 250 feet of any public park, public forest, playground,
6 or cemetery that is adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway; or

7 (5) Is along or near a scenic byway located on the federal-aid primary
8 highway.

9 (b) (1) This subsection applies only in Calvert County and St. Mary's County.

10 (2) The Administration may, in conformance with federal law, issue a
11 permit for an outdoor sign along or near a scenic byway located on a federal-aid primary
12 highway if the sign:

13 (i) Was erected on or before January 1, 2008; or

14 (ii) Is a directional sign for a facility that:

15 1. Sells principally local agricultural or aquacultural
16 products; and

17 2. Is located within a 5-mile radius of the sign.

18 (3) A sign erected under this subsection shall be erected and maintained in
19 a manner that is safe and does not detract from the scenic or cultural character of the scenic
20 byway along which the sign is located.

21 **(C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY, IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW,**
22 **ISSUE A PERMIT FOR AN OUTDOOR SIGN ALONG OR NEAR A FEDERAL-AID PRIMARY**
23 **HIGHWAY IF THE SIGN IS A DIRECTIONAL SIGN FOR A HISTORIC, CULTURAL, OR**
24 **EDUCATIONAL SITE THAT IS NATURALLY SUITED FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2016.