

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 850 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, BRIGGS, ZABEL, SAPPEY, FREEMAN, HOWARD,  
WEBSTER, O'MARA, SHUSTERMAN, MALAGARI, ROZZI, N. NELSON,  
HERRIN AND HILL-EVANS, MARCH 17, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 17, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), entitled  
2 "An act to empower cities of the second class A, and third  
3 class, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships of the first  
4 and second classes including those within a county of the  
5 second class and counties of the second through eighth  
6 classes, individually or jointly, to plan their development  
7 and to govern the same by zoning, subdivision and land  
8 development ordinances, planned residential development and  
9 other ordinances, by official maps, by the reservation of  
10 certain land for future public purpose and by the acquisition  
11 of such land; to promote the conservation of energy through  
12 the use of planning practices and to promote the effective  
13 utilization of renewable energy sources; providing for the  
14 establishment of planning commissions, planning departments,  
15 planning committees and zoning hearing boards, authorizing  
16 them to charge fees, make inspections and hold public  
17 hearings; providing for mediation; providing for transferable  
18 development rights; providing for appropriations, appeals to  
19 courts and penalties for violations; and repealing acts and  
20 parts of acts," in zoning, providing for prohibiting the  
21 location of advertising signs in certain locations.

22 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

23 hereby enacts as follows:

24 Section 1. The act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known  
25 as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, is amended by  
26 adding a section to read:

27 Section 622. Prohibiting the Location of Advertising Signs

1 in Certain Locations.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision  
2 of law, an off-premises advertising sign may not be located less  
3 than 1,000 feet from the property line of an existing school,  
4 public playground, public park, residential housing area, child-  
5 care facility, church, meetinghouse or other actual place of  
6 regularly stated religious worship unless, by majority vote of  
7 the governing body for the municipality, the governing body  
8 gives necessary approvals.

9 (b) At least 14 days prior to the governing body voting on  
10 whether to allow an off-premises advertising sign less than  
11 1,000 feet from the property line of a school, public  
12 playground, public park, residential housing area, child-care  
13 facility, church, meetinghouse or other actual place of  
14 regularly stated religious worship, one or more public hearings  
15 shall be held within the municipality following public notice.  
16 All owners of real property located within 1,000 feet of the  
17 location of the proposed off-premises advertising sign shall be  
18 provided written notice of the public hearing at least 30 days  
19 before the hearing is convened.

20 (c) As used in this section, the term "off-premises  
21 advertising sign" shall mean an outdoor sign that is 32 square  
22 feet or larger and on which space is leased or rented by the  
23 owner of the sign to others for the purpose of conveying a  
24 commercial or noncommercial message.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.