

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
2015 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-79-2015

Chapter No. 59

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Patterson

Introduced by Council Members Patterson, Turner, Lehman and Toles

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction October 20, 2015

**ZONING BILL**

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 Illegal Signs

3 For the purpose of extending a rebuttable presumption for the enforcement of illegal signs and  
4 illegal posters in a County right-of-way, and generally regarding illegal signs and illegal posters.

5 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

6 Section 27-609,

7 The Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland,

8 being also

9 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2011 Edition; 2014 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
13 Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington Regional  
14 District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that Section 27-609 of the Zoning Ordinance of  
15 Prince George's County, Maryland, being also Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's County Code,  
16 be and the same is hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

17 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

18 **PART 12. SIGNS.**

19 **DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

20 **SUBDIVISION 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

1 **Sec. 27-609. Maintenance and removal of unsafe or illegal signs.**

2 (a) Whenever the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement,  
 3 [the Director of Public Works and Transportation,] or a designated representative [of either]  
 4 determines that a sign or poster is unsafe or illegal, the Director of the Department of Permitting,  
 5 Inspections, and Enforcement or designated representative shall (in writing) order that the sign  
 6 be made safe or removed. The order shall be complied with by the person owning or using the  
 7 sign or, in the case of a gateway sign, the Homeowners' Association or other entity responsible  
 8 for maintenance within five (5) days after the person, Homeowners' Association, or entity  
 9 receives the order. In the event of an emergency situation (when there is an immediate danger to  
 10 public safety), the unsafe sign shall be made safe or removed without any delay or written order.

11 (b) If the unsafe or illegal sign is not removed or maintained in accordance with the order,  
 12 the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement or designated  
 13 representative shall have the sign removed. Removal shall be referred to the Department of  
 14 Public Works and Transportation. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner, user,  
 15 Homeowners' Association, or entity responsible for the sign. For purposes of this Subtitle, all  
 16 illegal signs in the County right-of-way shall be deemed an immediate danger to public safety  
 17 and may be removed without any delay or written order. Any costs of removal shall be borne by  
 18 the person or entity responsible for the sign.

19 (c) The penalties prescribed in Section 27-265 may be invoked if the sign is not removed  
 20 or maintained in accordance with the order.

21 (d) The maintenance of an entrance feature, including gateway signs and associated  
 22 landscaping, shall be the responsibility of a Homeowner's Association or any other entity or  
 23 person designated in a maintenance arrangement approved by the Department of Permitting,  
 24 Inspections, and Enforcement. Any entrance which has not been maintained in a safe and  
 25 attractive manner may, for the purpose of this Section, be deemed by the Department of  
 26 Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement to be an unsafe sign.

27 (e) It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to attach any illegal sign or illegal  
 28 poster to any public utility pole, or to the exterior of any other public structure, or, with the  
 29 exception of those permitted under §27-602, to place an illegal sign or illegal poster in the  
 30 County right-of- way. Unless rebutted by competent evidence, any such sign or poster shall be

1 presumed to be owned by and attached by the person whose business name, business address,  
2 business telephone, or trademark is contained on the face of the sign or poster.

3 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect forty-five  
4 (45) calendar days after its adoption.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2015.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE’S  
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF  
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL  
DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mel Franklin  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council

KEY:  
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.