

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**2001 Legislative Session**

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ CB-73-2001  
 Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_ 54  
 Proposed and Presented by \_\_\_\_\_ The Chairman (by request – County Executive)  
 Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Council Members Russell, Estepp, Bailey, Shapiro, Wilson and Scott  
 Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ October 23, 2001

**ZONING BILL**

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 Enforcement - Signs

3 For the purpose of authorizing the Department of Public Works and Transportation to enforce the  
 4 County's prohibitions against certain illegal signs.

5 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

6 Sections 27-262, 27-609 and 27-610,

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 (1999 Edition, 2000 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 Sections 27-262, 27-609 and 27-610 of the  
 15 Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland, being also Subtitle 27 of the Prince  
 16 George's County Code, be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following  
 17 amendments:

18 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

19 **PART 3. ADMINISTRATION.**

20 **DIVISION 8. ENFORCEMENT.**

**Sec. 27-262. Authorization.**

The Department of Environmental Resources and, when specified, the Police Department shall have the duty of enforcing the requirements of this Subtitle. The Department of Public Works and Transportation shall also have enforcement authority to enforce the Sign Ordinance in Part 12 of this Subtitle regarding signs in the County right-of-way. As used in this Section, right-of-way is defined in Section 23-102 of this Code.

**PART 12. SIGNS.****DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION.****Subdivision 3. Enforcement.****Sec. 27-609. Maintenance and removal of unsafe or illegal signs.**

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

(b) If the unsafe or illegal sign is not removed or maintained in accordance with the order, the Director [of the Department of Environmental Resources] or designated representative shall have the sign removed. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner, user, Homeowners' Association, or entity responsible for the sign. For purposes of this Subtitle, all illegal signs in the County right-of-way shall be deemed an immediate danger to public safety and may be removed without any delay or written order. Any costs of removal shall be borne by the person or entity responsible for the sign.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to attach any sign or poster to any public utility pole or to the exterior of any other public structure. Unless rebutted by competent evidence, any such

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

4  
 5 **Sec. 27-610. Violations.**

6 (a) If a sign violates any of the requirements of the applicable ordinances existing at the  
 7 time of its erection, the [Director of the Department of Environmental Resources (or his  
 8 designated representative)] Director of Environmental Resources, the Director of Public Works  
 9 and Transportation, or a designated representative of either shall order (in writing) that the sign  
 10 be removed or made to conform to the requirements of this Part. The order shall be complied  
 11 with by the owner or user of the sign within fifteen (15) days (or a different time period if so  
 12 stated in the order).

13 (b) If the order is not complied with, the Director or designated representative may have  
 14 the sign removed. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner or user of the sign.

15 (c) The penalties prescribed in Section 27-265 may be invoked if the order is not complied  
 16 with.

17 \* \* \* \* \*

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

Adopted this 19th day of November, 2001

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald V. Russell  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce T. Sweeney  
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.