

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-044-2026

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Illegal Signage Enforcement Act of 2026

3 For the purpose of strengthening enforcement against the placement of illegal signs and illegal
4 objects in County rights-of-way; requiring public utilities to remove illegal signs and objects
5 placed on their infrastructure in County rights-of-way; increasing and establishing fines to reduce
6 the placement and persistence of illegal signs and illegal objects in County rights-of-way;
7 increasing liability for the placement of illegal signs and illegal objects in County rights-of-way;
8 and generally relating to eliminating illegal signs and illegal objects in County rights-of-way.

9 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

10 SUBTITLE 23. ROADS AND SIDEWALKS.

11 Sections 23-608, 23-610

12 The Prince George's County Code

13 (2024 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
15 Maryland, that Sections 23-608 and 23-610 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same
16 are hereby repealed and reenacted with amendments:

17 SUBTITLE 23. ROADS AND SIDEWALKS

18 DIVISION 6. USES WITHIN THE COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY.

19 **Sec. 23-608. Illegal signs or illegal objects.**

20 (a) Except for signs or objects allowed to be placed without a permit, any sign or object
21 placed in the County right-of-way without a permit shall be deemed abandoned by its owner at

1 the time the sign or object was placed shall be deemed illegal and may be subject to removal by
 2 the Department without notice. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner of the sign or
 3 object with a minimum cost of \$50.00 per sign or object removed. [Unless rebutted by clear and
 4 convincing evidence, a]Any such sign or object shall be deemed [presumed] to be owned by and
 5 attached by the person whose business name, business address, business telephone number,
 6 website, email address, trademark or servicemark is contained on the face of the sign or object.

7 (b) Except to the extent permitted by Subtitle 27 of this Code, it shall be unlawful for a
 8 person to attach any sign or object to a traffic control device, roadside tree, public utility pole, or
 9 any other structure located within the County right-of-way. [Unless rebutted by clear and
 10 convincing evidence, a]Any such sign or object shall be deemed [presumed] to be owned by and
 11 attached by the person whose business name, business address, business telephone number,
 12 website, email address, trademark or servicemark is contained on the face of the sign or object.

13 **Sec. 23-610. Violations and civil penalties.**

14 (a) If a sign or object is placed or erected in the County right-of-way in violation of any of
 15 the requirements of the applicable ordinances existing at the time of its erection or placement, the
 16 person who erected or placed the sign or object and the person who is deemed [presumed] to
 17 own the sign or object are subject to a civil fine of one thousand dollars (\$1000) per sign [one
 18 hundred dollars (\$100)] for the first violation, two thousand dollars (\$2000) per sign [five
 19 hundred dollars (\$500)] for the second violation, and five thousand dollars (\$5000) per sign [one
 20 thousand dollars (\$1,000)] for the third and subsequent violations and shall be liable for all costs
 21 incurred by the County to remove such sign or object. The civil fine shall continue to accrue on a
 22 daily basis until each [the] sign or object is removed.

23 (b) Responsibility of Public Service Companies. Any public service company, as defined in
 24 Section 1-101(z), Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, shall remove any sign or
 25 object affixed or placed on its infrastructure in any County right of way in violation of this
 26 Section within 48 hours after receiving notice in writing from the Director or the Director's
 27 designee of such violation. Failure of a public service company to remove such a sign or object
 28 from its infrastructure may result in a civil fine of one thousand dollars (\$1000) per sign for the
 29 first violation, two thousand dollars (\$2000) per sign for the second violation, and five thousand
 30 dollars (\$5000) per sign for the third and subsequent violations and the public service company
 31 shall be liable for all costs incurred by the County to remove such sign or object.

1 [(b)](c) The County may recover all civil penalties and costs of removal of illegal signs or
2 objects through an action in law.

3 [(c)](d) In an action in law to recover civil penalties or cost for the removal of signs or
4 objects in the public rights-of-way, an affidavit by the Director or the Director's designee that
5 describes the illegal sign or object in the public right-of-way, the removal of such sign or object
6 by the Department, the amount of civil penalties, and the costs of removal incurred by the
7 Department shall be deemed prima facie evidence entitling the County to judgment and shall be
8 accorded a strong presumption of correctness and validity, absent evidence provided by the
9 defendant that the Department's determinations are arbitrary and capricious. [clear and
10 convincing evidence to the contrary provided by the defendant.]

11 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
12 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
13 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
14 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
15 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
16 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
17 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
18 or section.

19 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
20 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown

Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____

Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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