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COUNTY BILLBOARD CONTROL

House Bill 4452

Sponsor: Rep. Pat Gagliardi

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 3-24-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4452 AS INTRODUCED 3-9-93

The Highway Advertising Act regulates the size, lighting, and location of signs and sign structures along interstate highways, freeways and primary highways, and permits certain local governments--cities, villages, and charter and general law townships--to enact sign control ordinances more restrictive than the act. The bill would amend the act to specify that before a sign/sign structure could be erected or maintained in a "business area or unzoned commercial and industrial area" in the state (except those erected or maintained by the Department of Transportation and certain others), the county in which it was located would have to approve its erection. Also, a sign erected or maintained in the state would have to comply with a county's zoning requirements. Under the bill, sign control ordinances more stringent than the act could be enacted regulating signs located adjacent to secondary roads, county primary roads, major streets and local roads (essentially, on any road under a county road commission's jurisdiction).

The act currently permits the transportation department to remove signs erected or maintained in violation of the act. Under the bill, the department, at its discretion and upon payment of just compensation, could require the removal of any sign or sign structure. The bill also would raise the minimum and maximum penalties that could be imposed for a violation of the act's provisions from \$100 to \$1,000 and from \$1,000 to \$50,000, respectively.

The bill would allow a local unit of government to erect and maintain "motorist information panels" next to county primary and secondary highways, major streets and local roads that pertained to sites of scenic value, safety and traveler information needs. The erection and maintenance of such signs, however, would have to be done in cooperation with the county road commission.

Under the act, "maintain" means "to allow to exist and includes the periodic changing of advertising messages, customary maintenance, and repair of signs and sign structures." The bill would add to this definition that "maintain does not include the enlarging of a sign or otherwise altering the sign structure."

MCL 252.302 et al.

House Bill 4452 (3-24-93)