

## CHAPTER 431

(Senate Bill 593)

AN ACT to add new Section 238A to Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume), title "State Roads," subtitle "Highway Beautification," to follow immediately after Section 238 thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Outdoor Advertising," to prohibit placement in Harford County of certain forms of outdoor advertising signs along state and county highways, to provide for exemptions thereto; to provide for the payment of just compensation for the removal of the signs; and to generally relate to outdoor advertising signs in Harford County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 238A be and it is hereby added to Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume), title "State Roads," subtitle "Highway Beautification," to follow immediately after Section 238 thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Outdoor Advertising," and to read as follows:*

## OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

## 238A.

*(a) In Harford County, no person, firm, or corporation may lease, rent, use, or permit to the use of property for the purpose of erecting thereon any outdoor advertising signs of any kind adjacent to any State or county highway which are visible from the traveled way of the highway, except as hereinafter provided. As used in this section "visible from the traveled way" means capable of being seen, whether or not legible, without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity. This prohibition does not apply to the following:*

*(1) Outdoor advertising signs promoting a business or other activity being conducted on the same property as the sign, known as "on-premise signs."*

*(2) Outdoor advertising signs located under the authority of zoning permits in commercial or industrial zones.*

*(3) Outdoor advertising signs authorized in districts zoned commercial and industrial by municipal corporations within their boundaries.*

*(4) Temporary real estate signs.*

*(5) Official directional signs installed by the State Roads Commission or the County Commissioners of Harford County.*

*(6) Signs denoting places of religious worship or a historic monument on location. However, these signs shall be located in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Roads Commission.*

*(7) Outdoor advertising signs erected prior to June 1, 1972.*

*(b) Either the State Roads Commission or the County Commissioners of Harford County may acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation, and pay just compensation upon the removal of, outdoor advertising signs which are visible from the traveled way of State*