

COUNTY LOCAL LAWS

grandfathering in non-conforming signs; setting forth prohibited signs and relating to special signs, billboards and illumination and further providing for permits and fees, structural requirements, inspections and removal of unsafe, also including administration, penalties, definitions, variances and severability clause, and to permit owners of all existing signs to conform to the regulations in effect at the time of the adoption of this act.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That Sections 3.600, 3.601, 3.602, 3.603, 3.604, 3.605, 3.606, 3.607, 3.608, 3.609, 3.610, 3.611, 3.612, 3.613, 3.614, 3.615, be and are hereby added to Title 3 "Building," subtitle "Signs" of the Howard County Code, to read as follows:

3.600 - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT IS TO REGULATE ALL EXTERIOR SIGNS AND INTERIOR WINDOW SIGNS PLACED FOR EXTERIOR OBSERVANCE SO AS TO PROTECT PROPERTY VALUES, TO PROTECT THE CHARACTER OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY, TO PROTECT HEALTH, SAFETY AND MORALS, AND TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC WELFARE.

THE PRINCIPAL FEATURES ARE THE RESTRICTION OF ADVERTISING TO THE BUSINESS OR USE OF THE PREMISES ON WHICH THE SIGN IS LOCATED AND THE RESTRICTION OF THE TOTAL SIGN AREA PERMISSIBLE PER SITE. ANY SIGN PLACED ON LAND OR ON A BUILDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION OR FOR ADVERTISING A USE CONDUCTED THEREON OR THEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED ACCESSORY AND INCIDENTAL TO SUCH LAND, BUILDING OR USE. IT IS INTENDED THAT THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO THE LAND, BUILDING OR USE TO WHICH THEY ARE APPURTENANT AND BE ADEQUATE, BUT NOT EXCESSIVE, FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION OR ADVERTISEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO SIGNS ADVERTISING BUSINESS USES, IT IS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO AVOID EXCESSIVE CLUTTER AMONG SIGN DISPLAYS IN THEIR DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ATTENTION.

IT IS ALSO INTENDED BY THIS SECTION THAT ALL TEMPORARY SIGNS ERECTED FOR DIRECTIONAL PURPOSES, FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, OR TO CALL ATTENTION TO SPECIAL