

# HOUSE BILL 1133

R1, M3

7lr1351

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By: ~~Delegates Wivell and McKay~~, McKay, Beidle, Cassilly, Folden, Jacobs, and  
Otto

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – State Highway Rights-of-Way – Tree Planting and Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting in Washington County tree planting in a certain State  
4 highway right-of-way to implement a State Watershed Implementation Plan if the  
5 right-of-way fronts property that is zoned in a certain manner; prohibiting the State  
6 Highway Administration from planting any tree in certain areas of a certain State  
7 highway right-of-way in Washington County as part of implementing a State  
8 Watershed Implementation Plan under certain circumstances; requiring the  
9 Administration to negotiate in good faith with certain commercial property owners  
10 in Washington County with respect to the placement and installation of directional  
11 or promotional signs in State highway rights-of-way; requiring a commercial  
12 business that installs a sign under this Act to pay certain costs related to the sign;  
13 establishing that the Administration may not authorize the installation of a sign  
14 under this Act under certain circumstances and may order the removal of a sign  
15 under certain circumstances; authorizing the Administration to charge an annual  
16 fee for a sign installed under this Act; requiring the Administration to coordinate  
17 with certain individuals and entities to minimize the fiscal impact on the  
18 Transportation Trust Fund; authorizing the Administration to adopt certain  
19 regulations; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and  
20 generally relating to tree planting and signs in certain State highway rights-of-way  
21 in Washington County.

22 BY adding to

23 Article – Environment

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Section 4–801 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Washington County – Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load”  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 8–605  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article – Environment**

#### **SUBTITLE 8. WASHINGTON COUNTY – CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD.**

#### **4–801.**

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
INDICATED.

(2) (I) “BAY TMDL” MEANS THE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD  
(TMDL) FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FEDERAL CLEAN  
WATER ACT BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ON DECEMBER  
29, 2010.

(II) “BAY TMDL” INCLUDES ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE BAY  
TMDL MADE BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

(3) “HIGHWAY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8–101 OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

(4) (I) “WIP” MEANS A STATE WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN (WIP) APPROVED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO  
IMPLEMENT THE BAY TMDL WITHIN THE STATE.

(II) “WIP” INCLUDES ANY MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE STATE  
TO A WIP.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY ~~IN~~ TO THE PORTION OF THE FOLLOWING  
HIGHWAYS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY:

1           **(1) STATE ROUTE 64;**

2           **(2) STATE ROUTE 67;**

3           **(3) STATE ROUTE 418; AND**

4           **(4) U.S. ROUTE 40 ALTERNATE.**

5           **(C) TREE PLANTING IN A STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY MAY NOT BE**  
6 **USED TO IMPLEMENT A WIP IF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FRONTS PROPERTY THAT IS**  
7 **ZONED AS FOLLOWS:**

8           **(1) RURAL BUSINESS (RB);**

9           **(2) BUSINESS TRANSITIONAL (BT);**

10          **(3) BUSINESS LOCAL (BL);**

11          **(4) BUSINESS GENERAL (BG);**

12          **(5) PLANNED BUSINESS (PB); OR**

13          **(6) AGRICULTURAL (A(R)) OR (A).**

14          **(D) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT, WITHOUT THE**  
15 **WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE ~~OWNER~~ UTILITY, PLANT ANY TREE IN A STATE**  
16 **HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY AS PART OF IMPLEMENTING A WIP:**

17               **(I) WITHIN 30 FEET OF AN OVERHEAD ELECTRIC**  
18 **DISTRIBUTION OR SUBTRANSMISSION LINE IF THE TREE WILL REACH A MATURE**  
19 **HEIGHT EXCEEDING 15 FEET; OR**

20               **(II) THAT COULD POSE A HAZARD TO AN OVERHEAD ELECTRIC**  
21 **TRANSMISSION LINE WITHIN OR NEAR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE TRANSMISSION**  
22 **LINE.**

23                               **Article – Transportation**

24           8–605.

25          (a) Along any State highway, the Administration may place signs, signals, or  
26 markers to inform the traveling public of directions, distances, danger, or other  
27 information.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Administration shall assume the full cost of installing and maintaining traffic signals required at the intersection of a State highway with any municipal street or highway or at any other place along a State highway that is within the limits of any municipal corporation.

(2) This subsection does not apply where the traffic signal primarily will serve traffic generated by a private development, such as an apartment complex, shopping center, industrial plant, or drive-in theater.

(c) Signs, signals, and markers placed along any interstate highway shall conform to all applicable federal standards.

(d) (1) For the purpose of providing information to the driving public on the availability of gas, food, lodging, camping, or attractions, the Administration may place along State controlled access highways specific service signs, subject to the applicable federal standards.

(2) (i) The Administration shall adopt regulations governing specific service signs.

(ii) The regulations shall conform to all applicable federal standards, and shall govern the type, lighting, size, number, and location of specific service signs.

(iii) The Administration shall consult with:

1. The Maryland Travel Council prior to drafting regulations; and

2. The Department of Commerce and the appropriate local government officials concerning the placement of specific service signs under this subsection.

(3) The business or attraction identified in a specific service sign shall pay for the full administrative and operational cost of procurement, installation, and maintenance of the sign.

**(D-1) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY ~~IN~~:**

**(1) IN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY:**

**~~(H)~~ 1. RURAL BUSINESS (RB);**

**~~(H)~~ 2. BUSINESS TRANSITIONAL (BT);**

~~(III)~~ 3. BUSINESS LOCAL (BL);

~~(IV)~~ 4. BUSINESS GENERAL (BG);

~~(V)~~ 5. PLANNED BUSINESS (PB); OR

~~(VI)~~ 6. AGRICULTURAL (A(R)) OR (A); AND

(II) TO THE PORTION OF THE FOLLOWING HIGHWAYS IN  
WASHINGTON COUNTY:

1. STATE ROUTE 64;

2. STATE ROUTE 67;

3. STATE ROUTE 418; AND

4. U.S. ROUTE 40 ALTERNATE.

(2) (I) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL NEGOTIATE  
IN GOOD FAITH WITH COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO THE  
PLACEMENT, AND INSTALLATION BY A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS, OF DIRECTIONAL OR  
PROMOTIONAL SIGNS IN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(II) A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS THAT INSTALLS A DIRECTIONAL  
OR PROMOTIONAL SIGN SHALL PAY THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL  
COSTS OF PROCURING, INSTALLING, MAINTAINING, AND REMOVING THE SIGN.

(III) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION:

1. MAY NOT AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF A  
DIRECTIONAL OR PROMOTIONAL SIGN UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IF IT DETERMINES  
THAT INSTALLATION OF THE SIGN WOULD CAUSE A SAFETY ISSUE; OR

2. MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL OF A DIRECTIONAL OR  
PROMOTIONAL SIGN IF IT DETERMINES THAT THE SIGN IS CAUSING A SAFETY ISSUE.

(IV) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY CHARGE AN  
ANNUAL FEE FOR A DIRECTIONAL OR PROMOTIONAL SIGN INSTALLED UNDER THIS  
SUBSECTION.

(V) IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON THE  
TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND, THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL  
COORDINATE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT;
2. THE APPROPRIATE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT;
3. THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY GOVERNMENT; AND
4. THE APPROPRIATE PRIVATE LANDOWNER.

(VI) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT  
REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION.

(e) Any person who removes, damages, or defaces any sign, signal, or marker placed under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

(f) (1) Except for a sign placed or maintained by the Administration or with the authorization of the Administration, a person may not place or maintain a sign or direct, consent to, or approve the placement or maintenance of a sign, within a State highway right-of-way.

(2) (i) Without resort to legal proceedings, a sign placed or maintained in violation of this subsection may be removed and destroyed by the Administration, a law enforcement officer, or the government of the county or municipal corporation in which the sign was located.

(ii) The Administration or the government of the county or municipal corporation that removed or destroyed the sign may, if the sign is a commercial sign:

1. Collect the civil penalty provided for under paragraph (3) of this subsection from the person that placed or maintained the commercial sign; and

2. Seek an injunction against further violations of this subsection in a civil action in the District Court.

(3) (i) A person that places or maintains a commercial sign within the right-of-way of a State highway in violation of this subsection is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding \$25 per commercial sign, which, if not paid after being cited and assessed by the Administration, county, or municipal corporation, may be recovered in a civil action in the District Court by the Administration or by the county or municipal corporation in which the commercial sign was located.

(ii) As to a county or a municipal corporation in which the commercial sign was located, the civil action in the District Court may be brought by the county attorney or, if the commercial sign was located in a municipal corporation, the municipal corporation attorney.

(iii) The Administration, a county, or a municipal corporation:

1. May enforce this subsection only by the issuance of a warning for the first 3 months after initiating a sign removal program; and

2. Shall enforce this subsection on a viewpoint and content neutral basis.

(4) For the purposes of enforcing this subsection, the presence of a sign within a State highway right-of-way shall be evidence that the sign was placed or maintained at the direction of, or with the consent and approval of, the person or the person's agent or representative in the State whose name, business, location, or product representation is displayed on the sign.

(5) The Administration, a county, or a municipal corporation shall retain any civil penalties that it collects under this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.