

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1245

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JACOB.

Read 1st time February 28, 2002, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3529S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 226.527, 226.540 and 226.585, RSMo, relating to highway beautification, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 226.527, 226.540 and 226.585, RSMo, are repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 226.527, 226.540, 226.585 and 226.595, to read as follows:

226.527. 1. On and after August 13, 1976, no outdoor advertising shall be erected or maintained beyond six hundred and sixty feet of the right-of-way, located outside of urban areas, visible from the main traveled way of the interstate or primary system and erected with the purpose of its message being read from such traveled way, except such outdoor advertising as is defined in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 226.520.

2. No compensation shall be paid for the removal of any sign erected in violation of subsection 1 of this section unless otherwise authorized or permitted by sections 226.501 to 226.580. No sign erected prior to August 13, 1976, which would be in violation of this section if it were erected or maintained after August 13, 1976, shall be removed unless such removal is required by the Secretary of Transportation and federal funds required to be contributed to this state under section 131(g) of Title 23, United States Code, to pay compensation for such removal have been appropriated and allocated and are immediately available to this state, and in such event, such sign shall be removed pursuant to section 226.570.

3. In the event any portion of this chapter is found in noncompliance with Title 23, United States Code, section 131, by the Secretary of Transportation or his representative, and any portion of federal-aid highway funds or funds authorized for removal of outdoor advertising

are withheld, or declared forfeited by the Secretary of Transportation or his representative, all removal of outdoor advertising by the Missouri state highways and transportation commission pursuant to this chapter shall cease, and shall not be resumed until such funds are restored in full. Such cessation of removal shall not be construed to affect compensation for outdoor advertising removed or in the process of removal pursuant to this chapter.

4. In addition to any applicable regulations set forth in sections 226.500 through 226.600, signs within an area subject to control by a local zoning authority and wherever located within such area, **including within six hundred sixty feet of the right-of-way of any highway which is part of the federal aid interstate and primary system or the national highway system in this state**, shall be subject to reasonable regulations of that local zoning authority relative to size, lighting, spacing, **height** and location; provided, however, that no local zoning authority shall have authority to require any sign within its jurisdiction which was lawfully erected and which is maintained in good repair to be removed without the payment of just compensation.

226.540. [Notwithstanding any other] **Consistent with the** provisions of sections 226.500 to 226.600, outdoor advertising shall be permitted within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any interstate or primary highway in areas zoned industrial, commercial or the like and in unzoned commercial and industrial areas as defined in this section, subject to the following regulations [which are consistent with customary use in this state]:

(1) Lighting:

(a) No revolving or rotating beam or beacon of light that simulates any emergency light or device shall be permitted as part of any sign. No flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights will be permitted except scoreboards and other illuminated signs designating public service information, such as time, date, or temperature, or similar information, will be allowed;

(b) External lighting, such as floodlights, thin line and gooseneck reflectors are permitted, provided the light source is directed upon the face of the sign and is effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed into any portion of the main traveled way of the federal-aid primary highways as of June 1, 1991, and all highways designated as part of the National Highway System by the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 and those highways subsequently designated as part of the National Highway System and the lights are not of such intensity so as to cause glare, impair the vision of the driver of a motor vehicle, or otherwise interfere with a driver's operation of a motor vehicle;

(c) No sign shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of, or obscures, an official traffic sign, device, or signal;

(2) Size of signs:

(a) The maximum area for any one sign shall be eight hundred square feet with a

maximum height of thirty feet and a maximum length of seventy-two feet, inclusive of border and trim but excluding the base or apron, supports, and other structural members. The area shall be measured as established in rules promulgated by the commission. In determining the size of a sign structure, temporary cutouts and extensions installed for the length of a specific display contract shall not be included in calculating the size of the permanent display; provided the actual square footage of such temporary cutouts or extensions may not exceed thirty-three percent of the permanent display area;

(b) The maximum size limitations shall apply to each side of a sign structure, and signs may be placed back to back, double faced, or in V-type construction with not more than two displays to each facing, but such sign structure shall be considered as one sign;

(c) After August 28, 1999, no new sign structure shall be erected in which two or more displays are stacked one above the other. Stacked structures existing on or before August 28, 1999, in accordance with sections 226.500 to 226.600 shall not be deemed nonconforming for failure to meet the requirements of this section until such sign's structure is modified, repaired, replaced or rebuilt. Structures displaying more than one display on a horizontal basis shall be allowed, provided that total display areas do not exceed the maximum allowed square footage for a sign structure pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of this section;

(3) Spacing of signs:

(a) Interstate highways and freeways on the federal-aid primary highways as of June 1, 1991, and all highways designated as part of the National Highway System by the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 and those highways subsequently designated as part of the National Highway System:

a. No sign structure shall be erected within five hundred feet of an existing sign on the same side of the highway;

b. Outside of incorporated municipalities, no structure may be located adjacent to or within five hundred feet of an interchange, intersection at grade, or safety rest area. Such five hundred feet shall be measured from the beginning or ending of the pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main traveled way. For purpose of this subparagraph, the term "incorporated municipalities" shall include "urban areas", except that such "urban areas" shall not be considered "incorporated municipalities" if it is finally determined that such would have the effect of making Missouri be in noncompliance with the requirements of Title 23, United States Code, Section 131;

(b) Nonfreeway federal-aid primary highways as of June 1, 1991, and all highways designated as part of the National Highway System by the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 and those highways subsequently designated as part of the National Highway System:

a. Outside incorporated municipalities, no structure shall be erected within five hundred

feet of an existing sign on the same side of the highway. Sign structures existing prior to August 28, 1999, which complied with the requirements of this section when erected shall not be deemed nonconforming for failure to comply with the spacing provisions of this section until such sign's structure is modified, repaired, replaced or rebuilt;

b. Within incorporated municipalities, no structure shall be erected within five hundred feet of an existing sign. Sign structures existing prior to August 28, 1999, which complied with the requirements of this section when erected shall not be deemed nonconforming for failure to comply with the spacing provisions of this section until such sign's structure is modified, repaired, replaced or rebuilt;

(c) The spacing between structure provisions of subdivision (3) of this section do not apply to signs which are separated by buildings, natural surroundings, or other obstructions in such manner that only one sign facing located within such distance is visible at any one time. Directional or other official signs or those advertising the sale or lease of the property on which they are located, or those which advertise activities on the property on which they are located, including products sold, shall not be counted, nor shall measurements be made from them for the purpose of compliance with spacing provisions;

(d) No sign shall be located in such manner as to obstruct or otherwise physically interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device or obstruct or physically interfere with a motor vehicle operator's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic;

(e) The measurements in this section shall be the minimum distances between outdoor advertising sign structures measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs along each side of the highway and shall apply only to outdoor advertising sign structures located on the same side of the highway involved;

(4) As used in this section, the words "unzoned commercial and industrial land" shall be defined as follows: that area not zoned by state or local law or ordinance and on which there is located one or more permanent structures used for a commercial business or industrial activity or on which a commercial or industrial activity is actually conducted together with the area along the highway extending outwardly six hundred feet from and beyond the edge of such activity. All measurements shall be from the outer edges of the regularly used improvements, buildings, parking lots, landscaped, storage or processing areas of the commercial or industrial activity and along and parallel to the edge of the pavement of the highway. On nonfreeway federal-aid primary highways as of June 1, 1991, and all highways designated as part of the National Highway System by the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 and those highways subsequently designated as part of the National Highway System, where there is an unzoned commercial or industrial area on one side of the road as described in this section, the term "unzoned commercial or industrial land" shall also include those lands directly opposite on the other side of the highway to the extent of the same dimensions. Unzoned land shall not include:

(a) Land on the opposite side of an interstate or freeway primary highway from an unzoned commercial or industrial area as defined in this section;

(b) Land zoned by a state or local law, regulation, or ordinance;

(c) Land on the opposite side of a nonfreeway primary highway which is determined by the proper state authority to be a scenic area;

(5) "Commercial or industrial activities" as used in this section means those which are generally recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this state, except that none of the following shall be considered commercial or industrial:

(a) Outdoor advertising structures;

(b) Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming, and related activities, including seasonal roadside fresh produce stands;

(c) Transient or temporary activities;

(d) Activities more than six hundred sixty feet from the nearest edge of the right-of-way or not visible from the main traveled way;

(e) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence;

(f) Railroad tracks and minor sidings;

(6) The words "unzoned commercial or industrial land" shall also include all areas not specified in this section which constitute an "unzoned commercial or industrial area" within the meaning of the present Section 131 of Title 23 of the United States Code, or as such statute may be amended. As used in this section, the words "zoned commercial or industrial area" shall refer to those areas zoned commercial or industrial by the duly constituted zoning authority of a municipality, county, or other lawfully established political subdivision of the state, or by the state. Unzoned commercial or industrial activities as used in this section are limited to those activities:

(a) In which the primary use of the property is commercial or industrial in nature;

(b) Which are clearly visible from the highway and recognizable as a commercial business;

(c) Which are permanent as opposed to temporary or transitory and of a nature that would customarily be restricted to commercial or industrial zoning in areas comprehensively zoned; and

(d) In determining whether the primary use of the property is commercial or industrial pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the state highways and transportation commission shall consider the following factors:

a. The presence of a permanent and substantial building;

b. The existence of utilities and required business licenses, if any, for the commercial activity;

c. On-premise signs or other identification;

d. Communication with the business owner that can be accomplished at regular intervals either in person, by telephone, by fax machine, by electronic mail or by some other business means;

(7) In zoned commercial and industrial areas, whenever a state, county or municipal zoning authority has adopted laws or ordinances which include regulations with respect to the size, lighting and spacing of signs, which regulations are consistent with the intent of sections 226.500 to 226.600 and with customary use, then from and after the effective date of such regulations, and so long as they shall continue in effect, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the erection of signs in such areas. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, after August 28, 1992, with respect to any outdoor advertising which is regulated by the provisions of subdivision (1), (3) or (4) of section 226.520 or subsection 1 of section 226.527:

(a) No county or municipality shall issue a permit to allow a regulated sign to be newly erected without a permit issued by the state highways and transportation commission;

(b) A county or municipality may charge a reasonable one-time permit or inspection fee to assure compliance with local wind load and electrical requirements when the sign is first erected, but a county or municipality may not charge a permit or inspection fee for such sign after such initial fee. Changing the display face or performing routine maintenance shall not be considered as erecting a new sign;

(8) The state highways and transportation commission on behalf of the state of Missouri, may seek agreement with the Secretary of Transportation of the United States under Section 131 of Title 23, United States Code, as amended, that sections 226.500 to 226.600 are in conformance with that Section 131 and provides effective control of outdoor advertising signs as set forth therein. If such agreement cannot be reached and the penalties under subsection (b) of Section 131 are invoked, the attorney general of this state shall institute proceedings described in subsection (1) of that Section 131.

226.585. [The state transportation department may cut and trim any vegetation on the highway right-of-way which interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures a lawfully erected billboard, or the highways and transportation commission shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to permit the cutting and trimming of such vegetation on the highway or right-of-way by the owner of such billboard. Such rules and regulations shall be promulgated within twelve months after August 28, 1992, or the commission shall suspend the collection of the biennial inspection fees prescribed by section 226.550 until such rules are promulgated, and such rules may include authority to charge a reasonable fee for such permission. This section shall not apply if its implementation would have the effect of making Missouri be in noncompliance with requirements of Title 23, United States Code, section 131.] **Trees and other vegetation located on public rights-of-way may be removed or trimmed only for the purposes of improving aesthetic or environmental values, or of eliminating safety**

hazards. No permit or license previously granted for the erection of any outdoor advertising shall be deemed to have created in the owner a right that the outdoor advertising be visible from a road or highway.

226.595. 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of sections 226.500 to 226.600 to the contrary, after August 28, 2002, no new outdoor advertising shall be erected adjacent to interstate and federal-aid primary highways, and all highways designated as part of the national highway system; except that, the outdoor advertising described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 226.520 and in sections 226.525, 226.535 and 226.545 may be erected after the effective date of this section. All outdoor advertising existing on August 28, 2002, except as authorized in the preceding sentence, are nonconforming signs and uses under all applicable statutes and ordinances, except as this power may be limited by the free speech and just compensation clauses of the constitutions of the United States and the state of Missouri and federal law.

2. The provisions of this act shall not create any new obligation for the expenditure of state funds.

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