

SENATE BILL 1166

R1

4lr3532

By: **Senator Folden**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Frederick County – Scenic Byways – Signs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to issue a permit for a
4 certain sign along or near a scenic byway on a federal–aid primary highway in
5 Frederick County in conformance with federal law if the sign was erected on or before
6 a certain date or is a directional sign for a certain facility located in a certain area;
7 and generally relating to signs erected along scenic byways in Frederick County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 8–730

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 8–730.

17 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Administration may
18 not issue a permit for any outdoor sign along or near any federal–aid primary highway, if
19 the sign:

20 (1) Imitates or resembles any official traffic sign, signal, or device;

21 (2) Is erected or maintained on any tree or painted or drawn on any rock
22 or other natural feature;

23 (3) Is erected or maintained in a way that:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Obscures or otherwise interferes with the effectiveness of an
2 official traffic sign, signal, or device; or

3 (ii) Obstructs or interferes with a driver's view of approaching,
4 merging, or intersecting traffic;

5 (4) Is located within 250 feet of any public park, public forest, playground,
6 or cemetery that is adjacent to a federal-aid primary highway; or

7 (5) Is along or near a scenic byway located on the federal-aid primary
8 highway.

9 (b) (1) This subsection applies only in:

10 (I) Calvert County;

11 (II) **FREDERICK COUNTY**; and

12 (III) St. Mary's County.

13 (2) The Administration may, in conformance with federal law, issue a
14 permit for an outdoor sign along or near a scenic byway located on a federal-aid primary
15 highway if the sign:

16 (i) Was erected on or before January 1, 2008; or

17 (ii) Is a directional sign for a facility that:

18 1. Sells principally local agricultural or aquacultural
19 products; and

20 2. Is located within a 5-mile radius of the sign.

21 (3) A sign erected under this subsection shall be erected and maintained in
22 a manner that is safe and does not detract from the scenic or cultural character of the scenic
23 byway along which the sign is located.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2024.