

Act No. 13
Public Acts of 2011
Approved by the Governor
March 23, 2011
Filed with the Secretary of State
March 24, 2011
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 24, 2011

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
96TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

Introduced by Senator Kahn

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 149

AN ACT to amend 1972 PA 106, entitled "An act to provide for the licensing, regulation, control, and prohibition of outdoor advertising adjacent to certain roads and highways; to prescribe powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials; to promulgate rules; to provide remedies and prescribe penalties for violations; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 7a and 17 (MCL 252.307a and 252.317), section 7a as amended by 2010 PA 350 and section 17 as amended by 2009 PA 86.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 7a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall not issue annual permits for new signs on or after January 1, 2007.

(2) Permits issued by the department before January 1, 2007 remain in force and valid.

(3) On and after January 1, 2007, the department shall issue an interim permit or permits to a holder of a valid permit or permits if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The holder of the valid permit or permits is otherwise in compliance with this act.

(b) The holder of the permit or permits surrenders the permit or permits to the department upon the removal of a sign structure or sign structures that have a valid permit under this act.

(c) The holder of the permit or permits verifies the removal of the sign structure or sign structures in writing to the department.

(d) The department verifies that the sign structure or structures have been removed or the removal has been deemed effective under this section.

(4) An interim permit that is issued under this section shall only be utilized for the construction of a new sign structure and shall remain in effect without expiration with fees renewed on an annual basis.

(5) The department shall verify that an existing sign structure has been removed no later than 30 days after the department receives written notice from the permit holder that the sign structure has been removed. If the department does not respond to the written notice within 30 days after receipt of the written notice, then the permit holder shall be deemed to have removed the sign structure in compliance with this section.

(6) A holder of 2 valid permits for a sign structure with 2 faces who complies with this section shall receive 2 interim permits for the construction of a sign structure with 2 faces. A permit holder under this subsection shall not receive 2 interim permits to construct 2 single-face sign structures.

(7) A holder of a valid permit for a sign structure with a single face is entitled to exchange that permit under this section for an interim permit with a single face. A holder of valid permits for 2 different single-face structures may exchange the 2 permits under this section for 2 interim permits to construct 2 single-face sign structures or 2 interim permits to construct 1 sign structure with 2 faces.

(8) A holder of more than 2 valid permits for a sign structure with more than 2 faces may exchange the permits under this section for a maximum of 2 interim permits. The 2 interim permits received under this section shall only be used to construct 1 sign structure with no more than 2 faces.

(9) After construction of a sign structure under an interim permit is complete, the department shall issue renewable permits annually for the completed sign structure.

(10) If a permit holder for a sign structure that exists on January 1, 2007 requires additional permits for any reason, or if the owner of a sign that meets the requirements of section 17(9) applies for a permit before July 1, 2011, the department may issue a valid renewable permit renewable on an annual basis without complying with subsection (2) even if the permit holder has more than 2 valid permits as a result.

(11) The department may issue a permit for a new sign structure that measures no more than 8 square feet for signs in the categories of service club signs and religious organization signs.

(12) Notwithstanding anything else in this act that may be to the contrary, permits issued under subsection (11) are not eligible to be surrendered for an interim permit.

Sec. 17. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9), along interstate highways and freeways, a sign structure located in a business area or unzoned commercial or industrial area shall not be erected closer than 1,000 feet to another sign structure on the same side of the highway.

(2) Along primary highways a sign structure shall not be closer than 500 feet to another sign structure.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply to signs separated by a building or other visual obstruction in such a manner that only 1 sign located within the spacing distances is visible from the highway at any time, provided that the building or other visual obstruction has not been created for the purpose of visually obstructing either of the signs at issue.

(4) Along interstate highways and freeways located outside of incorporated municipalities, a sign structure shall not be permitted adjacent to or within 500 feet of an interchange, an intersection at grade or a safety roadside rest area. The 500 feet shall be measured from the point of beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from, or entrance to, the main-traveled way.

(5) Official signs as described in section 13(1)(a) and on-premises signs shall not be counted nor shall measurements be made from them for purposes of determining compliance with the spacing requirements provided in this section.

(6) The spacing requirements provided in this section apply separately to each side of the highway.

(7) The spacing requirements provided in this section shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement of the highway between points directly opposite each sign.

(8) A sign that was erected in compliance with the spacing requirements of this section that were in effect at the time when the sign was erected, but which does not comply with the spacing requirements of this section after March 23, 1999, shall not be considered unlawful as that term is used in section 22.

(9) Along an interstate highway, where the interstate highway is designated by 1 letter and 3 numbers, and the interstate highway is located in a county with a population of less than 211,000 but more than 175,000 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, an existing sign structure that was erected prior to the date of the amendatory act that added this subsection shall not be closer than 900 feet to another sign structure on the same side of the highway.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Gay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor