

Legislative Analysis



BILLBOARD PERMITS

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Senate Bill 149 (as amended)

Sponsor: Sen. Roger Kahn, MD

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

Complete to 3-3-11

A SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 149 AS REPORTED FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE

The bill would amend the Highway Advertising Act to do the following:

- Delete provisions requiring the owner of a sign structure that displays changing messages or images to apply for a digital billboard permit, in addition to an annual permit, and meet other requirements.
- Delete provisions requiring the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to grant an interim permit for an existing digital billboard located in Saginaw County.
- Delete a requirement that a sign constructed under an interim permit be not closer than 900 feet to another sign structure on the same side of the highway along interstate highways, freeways, and primary highways.
- Require an existing sign structure on I-675 in Saginaw County to be at least 900 feet, rather than the standard 1,000 feet, from another sign on the same side of the highway.
- Provide that if the owner of a sign described above applies for a permit before July 11, 2011, the department could issue a renewable permit as defined in the act.

(The bill eliminates provisions that were added to the act last session by Public Act 350 of 2010 to address a dispute over a digital sign in Saginaw County. This bill provides an alternative approach to that issue. See the Senate Fiscal Agency analysis dated 2-1-11 of Senate Bill 589 of last session, which became Public Act 350.)

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill does not appear to have any fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The following indicated support of the bill to the Transportation Committee: The Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Municipal League, and Adams Outdoor Advertising.

Legislative Analyst: E. Best/C. Couch

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