

COUNTY COUNCIL OF



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY*

To: All Councilmembers of the Anne Arundel County Council

From: Linda M. Schuett, Legislative Counsel

Date: June 21, 2021

Subject: Bill No. 66-21

Anne Arundel County has four types of signs: directional signs; freestanding signs; identification signs; and temporary signs. A definition of “sign” and the four types of signs are defined in § 18-1-101, as follows:

“Sign” means any writing, letter, or numeric work, pictorial presentation, illustration or decoration, emblem, device, symbol, trademark, flag, banner, pennant, or any other device, figure, or character utilized to advertise, announce, identify, or make known or attract attention. The following types of signs have the meanings indicated:

(i) “Directional sign” means a sign that directs traffic to a use or area.

(ii) “Freestanding sign” means a sign that is permanently affixed to the ground and supported by one or more columns, uprights, or braces.

(iii) “Identification sign” means a sign attached to the facade of a structure that relates to a use located at the same location as the sign.

(iv) “Temporary sign” means a sign that is posted no more than 60 days before the project, event, or election to which it applies and removed within seven days after the conclusion of the project, event, or election.

* This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

Bill No. 66-21 provides a revised definition for a temporary sign. Under the Bill, a temporary sign is one that: (1) is not a freestanding sign; (2) is not a sign permanently affixed to a structure; (3) is portable and easily removably; and (4) displays messages of a transitory or temporary nature. *See* § 18-1-101(127).

The Bill repeals the prohibition against wind signs, which are temporary signs. It also repeals the prohibition against signs painted on the roof of a structure. *See* § 18-3-303(b)(3) and (4).

The Bill prohibits more than four temporary signs on private property. It also prohibits the display of temporary signs for more than two periods of 60-consecutive days in any 365-day period. *See* § 18-3-306 (a)(4) and (5).

Bill No. 66-21 repeals a provision relating to the size of real estate or construction temporary signs, a provision that is of dubious legality because it is based on the content of the sign. The Bill instead provides that a temporary sign may have a maximum area of 64 square feet when the sign is on property that has at least 500 feet of road frontage or when the sign applies to at least 10 adjacent lots. *See* § 18-3-306 (a)(2).

Finally, for ease of reading, § 18-3-306(b) is divided into three separate paragraphs. There are no substantive changes.