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SENATE BILL NO. 58

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Senator Martin)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Martin)

Senate Amendments in [] — February 5, 2004

A *BILL* to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.1-370.2, relating to maintenance and repair of nonconforming signs.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 33.1-370.2 as follows:

§ 33.1-370.2. Maintenance and repair of nonconforming billboard signs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, maintenance of and repairs to nonconforming billboard signs shall be governed by this section and any applicable regulations promulgated by the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner, known as the "Control and Continuance of Nonconforming Signs, Advertisements and Advertising Structure." Nonconforming billboard signs shall be maintained in a good state of repair and shall be subject to removal for failure to do so, in accordance with § 33.1-375. In order to make repairs to a nonconforming billboard sign, the owner shall make a written request to the Commissioner and submit the documentation required by 24 VAC 3-120-170. The Commissioner shall review the written request and if the Commissioner determines that the cost of requested repairs does not exceed a dollar amount greater than 50 percent of the current replacement cost of the entire billboard sign or structure, the Commissioner shall provide the owner of the billboard sign with a letter approving the billboard sign repairs. However, in no case shall a nonconforming billboard sign be replaced or rebuilt if the cost of the replacement or rebuilding exceeds 50 percent of the current replacement cost. The owner of the billboard sign shall then apply for a building permit from the locality in which the billboard sign is located and provide a copy of the approval letter from the Commissioner as part of the application for the building permit. The Commissioner's determination as to whether the owner of the billboard sign has complied with this section shall be binding upon the locality, unless the building official, for good cause shown, submits to the Commissioner documentation objecting to the Commissioner's determination, within 30 days of the building permit application, with a copy of such documentation being provided to the billboard sign owner. The Commissioner shall consider any documentation submitted by the building official and shall reissue a determination in accordance with this section, which determination shall be binding upon the locality. [Provided, however, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the sign is located within a locality that had in effect on January 1, 2004 a valuation method other than replacement cost for valuing nonconforming billboard signs, the Commissioner shall use such alternate valuation method, instead of replacement cost, for determining if the 50 percent thresholds established by this section are exceeded.]

ENGROSSED

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