

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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An Act to amend and reenact §§ 33.1-348 and 33.1-351 of the Code of Virginia, relating to junkyards; policy and definitions.

[H 2105]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 33.1-348 and 33.1-351 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows: § 33.1-348. Junkyards.

(a) For the purpose of promoting the public safety, health, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of public travel, to protect the public investment in public highways, and to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of lands bordering public highways, it is hereby declared to be in the public interest to regulate and restrict the establishment, operation, and maintenance of junkyards in areas adjacent to the highways within this Commonwealth.

(b) For the purpose of this section the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Junk" shall mean old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

(2) "Automobile graveyard" shall mean any lot or place which is exposed to the weather and upon which more than five motor vehicles of any kind that are incapable of being operated and which it would not be economically practical to make operative, are placed, located or found. The movement or rearrangement of vehicles within an existing lot or facility does not render this definition inapplicable. The provisions established by this subdivision shall begin with the first day that the vehicle is placed on the subject property.

(3) "Junkyard" shall mean an establishment or place of business which is maintained, operated, or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling junk, or for the maintenance or operation of an automobile graveyard, and the term shall include garbage dumps and sanitary fills.

(4) "Interstate system" shall mean the system presently defined in ~~subsection (e)~~ of § 103 of Title 23, United States Code.

(5) "Primary highway" shall mean any highway within the State Highway System as established and maintained under Article 2 (§ 33.1-25 et seq.), Chapter 1 of this title, including extensions of such System within municipalities.

(6) "Federal-aid primary highway" shall mean any highway within that portion of the State Highway System as established and maintained under Article 2 (§ 33.1-25 et seq.), Chapter 1 of this title, including extensions of such System within municipalities, which has been approved by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to ~~subsection (b)~~ of § 103 of Title 23, United States Code.

(7) "Visible" shall mean capable of being seen without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

(8) *"National Highway System" shall mean the federal-aid highway system referenced in § 103 of Title 23, United States Code, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, which includes those highways that are designated as such by congressional action or designation by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Prior to congressional approval or designation by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, highways classified as National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Interstate System, or federal-aid primary highways as that system existed on June 1, 1991, shall be considered as the National Highway System.*

(c) No junkyard shall be hereafter established, any portion of which is within 1,000' of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any ~~interstate~~ National Highway System highway or primary highway or within 500' of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any other highway or city street, except the following:

(1) Junkyards which are screened by natural objects, plantings, fences, or other appropriate means so as not to be visible from the main-traveled way of the highway or city street, or otherwise removed from sight.

(2) Junkyards which are located in areas which are zoned for industrial use under authority of state law or in unzoned industrial areas as determined by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

(3) Junkyards which are not visible from the main-traveled way of the highway or city street.

(d) Any junkyard lawfully in existence on April 4, 1968, which is within 1,000' of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and visible from the main-traveled way of any interstate or federal-aid primary

57 highway, and not located within an industrial area, shall be screened, if feasible, by the Commissioner
 58 of Highways at locations on the highway right-of-way or in areas acquired for such purposes outside the
 59 right-of-way, so as not to be visible from the main-traveled way of such highways.

60 Any junkyard lawfully in existence on April 4, 1968, which is within 1,000' of the nearest edge of
 61 the right-of-way of any other primary highway or within 500' of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of
 62 any other highway and visible from the main-traveled way of such highway, and not located within an
 63 industrial area, may be screened by the Commissioner of Highways in the same manner as junkyards
 64 adjacent to ~~interstate or federal-aid primary~~ *National Highway System* highways.

65 The Commissioner of Highways is hereby authorized to acquire by purchase, gift or the power of
 66 eminent domain such lands or interests in lands as may be necessary to provide adequate screening of
 67 such junkyards.

68 (e) When the Commissioner of Highways determines that the topography of the land adjoining ~~an~~
 69 ~~interstate or federal-aid primary~~ *a National Highway System* highway will not permit adequate screening
 70 of such junkyards or the screening of such junkyards would not be economically feasible, the
 71 Commissioner of Highways shall have the authority to acquire by gift, purchase or the power of eminent
 72 domain, such interests in lands as may be necessary to secure the relocation, removal, or disposal of the
 73 junkyards, and to pay for the costs of relocation, removal, or disposal, thereof. When the Commissioner
 74 of Highways determines that the topography of the land adjoining any other highway will not permit
 75 adequate screening or such would not be feasible, the Commissioner *of Highways* may exercise the same
 76 authority to relocate such junkyards as is vested in him in regard to ~~interstate and federal-aid primary~~
 77 *National Highway System* highways.

78 (f) Any junkyard which comes into existence after April 4, 1968, and which cannot be made to
 79 conform to this section, is declared to be a public and private nuisance and may be forthwith removed,
 80 obliterated or abated by the Commissioner *of Highways* or his representatives. The Commissioner *of*
 81 *Highways* may collect the cost of such removal, obliteration or abatement from the person owning or
 82 operating such junkyard.

83 (g) The Commonwealth Transportation Board is authorized to enter into agreements with the United
 84 States as provided in 23 U.S.C. § 136 with respect to control of junkyards.

85 (h) The Commissioner of Highways shall not be required to expend any funds for screening or
 86 relocation under this section unless and until federal-aid matching funds are made available for this
 87 purpose.

88 (i) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

89 **§ 33.1-351. Policy; definitions.**

90 In order to promote the safety, convenience, and enjoyment of travel on and protection of the public
 91 investment in highways within this Commonwealth, to attract tourists and promote the prosperity,
 92 economic well-being, and general welfare of the Commonwealth, and to preserve and enhance the
 93 natural scenic beauty or aesthetic features of the highways and adjacent areas, the General Assembly
 94 declares it to be the policy of the Commonwealth that the erection and maintenance of outdoor
 95 advertising in areas adjacent to the rights-of-way of the highways within the Commonwealth shall be
 96 regulated in accordance with the terms of this article and regulations promulgated by the Commonwealth
 97 Transportation Board pursuant thereto.

98 The following terms, wherever used or referred to in this article, shall have the following meanings
 99 unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

100 "Advertisement" means any writing, printing, picture, painting, display, emblem, drawing, sign, or
 101 similar device which is posted or displayed outdoors on real property and is intended to invite or to
 102 draw the attention or to solicit the patronage or support of the public to any goods, merchandise, real or
 103 personal property, business, services, entertainment, or amusement manufactured, produced, bought, sold,
 104 conducted, furnished, or dealt in by any person; the term shall also include any part of an advertisement
 105 recognizable as such.

106 "Advertising structure" means any rigid or semirigid material, with or without any advertisement
 107 displayed thereon, situated upon or attached to real property outdoors, primarily or principally for the
 108 purpose of furnishing a background or base or support upon which an advertisement may be posted or
 109 displayed.

110 "Billboard sign" means any sign, advertisement, or advertising structure as defined in this section
 111 owned by a person, firm, or corporation in the business of outdoor advertising.

112 "Business of outdoor advertising" means the erection, use or maintenance of advertising structures or
 113 the posting or display of outdoor advertisements by any person who receives profit gained from rentals
 114 or any other compensation from any other person for the use or maintenance of such advertising
 115 structures or the posting or display of such advertisements, except reasonable compensation for materials
 116 and labor used or furnished in the actual erection of advertising structures or the actual posting of
 117 advertisements. The business of outdoor advertising shall not include the leasing or rental of advertising

118 structures or advertisements used to advertise products, services, or entertainment sold or provided on
119 the premises where the advertising structures or advertisement is located.

120 "Centerline of the highway" means a line equidistant from the edges of the median separating the
121 main traveled ways of a divided highway, or the centerline of the main traveled way of a nondivided
122 highway.

123 "Distance from edge of a right-of-way" shall be the horizontal distance measured along a line normal
124 or perpendicular to the centerline of the highway.

125 "Federal-aid primary highway" means any highway within that portion of the State Highway System
126 as established and maintained under Article 2 (§ 33.1-25 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 33.1, including
127 extensions of such system within municipalities, which has been approved by the Secretary of
128 Transportation pursuant to ~~subsection (b) of~~ § 103 of Title 23, United States Code, as that system
129 existed on June 1, 1991.

130 "Highway" means every way or place of whatever nature open to the use of the public for purposes
131 of vehicular travel in this Commonwealth.

132 "Historic place, museum or shrine" includes only places that are maintained wholly at public expense
133 or by a nonprofit organization.

134 "Information center" means an area or site established and maintained at rest areas for the purpose of
135 informing the public of places of interest within the Commonwealth and providing such other
136 information as the Commonwealth may consider desirable.

137 "Interchange" means a grade separated intersection with one or more turning roadways for travel
138 between intersection legs, or an intersection at grade, where two or more highways join or cross.

139 "Lawfully erected" means any sign that was erected pursuant to the issuance of a permit from the
140 Commissioner of Highways under § 33.1-360 unless the local governing body has evidence of
141 noncompliance with ordinances in effect at the time the sign was erected.

142 "Legible" means capable of being read without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

143 "Main traveled way" means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the
144 case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite
145 directions is a main traveled way. It does not include such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways,
146 or parking areas.

147 "Maintain" means to allow to exist.

148 "Municipalities" means cities and incorporated towns.

149 "National highway system ~~Highway System~~" means the federal-aid highway system ~~described~~
150 ~~referenced in subsection (b) of~~ § 103 of Title 23, United States Code, and regulations adopted pursuant
151 thereto. For the purpose of this article, outdoor advertising controls on the ~~national highway system~~
152 *National Highway System* shall be implemented as those highways are designated and approved by
153 congressional action *or designation by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation* and such designation and
154 approval shall be kept on file in the central office of the Department of Transportation and placed in the
155 minutes of the Commonwealth Transportation Board by the Commissioner of Highways. Prior to
156 congressional approval *or designation by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation*, highways classified as
157 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of
158 Interstate and Defense Highways, Interstate System, or federal-aid primary as defined herein shall be
159 considered as the ~~national highway system~~ *National Highway System*.

160 "National System of Interstate and Defense Highways," "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of
161 Interstate and Defense Highways," and "Interstate System" means the system presently defined in
162 ~~subsection (e) of~~ § 103 of Title 23, United States Code.

163 A "nonconforming sign," "nonconforming advertisement," or "nonconforming advertising structure" is
164 one which was lawfully erected adjacent to any highway in the Commonwealth, but which does not
165 comply with the provisions of state law, state regulations, or ordinances adopted by local governing
166 bodies passed at a later date or which later fails to comply with state law, state regulations, or
167 ordinances adopted by local governing bodies due to changed conditions.

168 "Person" includes an individual, partnership, association or corporation.

169 "Post" means post, display, print, paint, burn, nail, paste or otherwise attach.

170 "Real property" includes any property physically attached or annexed to real property in any manner
171 whatsoever.

172 "Rest area" means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the right-of-way
173 or under public supervision or control, for the convenience of the traveling public.

174 "Scenic area" means any public park, area of particular scenic beauty or historical significance
175 designated as a scenic area by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

176 "Sign" means any outdoor sign, display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster,
177 billboard, or other thing which is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of the
178 advertising or informative contents of which is visible from any highway.

179 "Town" means an incorporated town.

180 "Trade name" shall include brand name, trademark, distinctive symbol, or other similar device or
181 thing used to identify particular products or services.

182 "Traveled way" means the portion of a roadway for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of
183 shoulders.

184 "Turning roadway" means a connecting roadway for traffic turning between two intersection legs of
185 an interchange.

186 "Urban area" means an urbanized area or, in the case of an urbanized area encompassing more than
187 one state, that part of the "urbanized area" within the Commonwealth, or an urban place.

188 "Urban place" means an area so designated by the United States Bureau of the Census having a
189 population of 5,000 or more and not within any urbanized area, within boundaries fixed by the
190 Commissioner of Highways, in his discretion, in cooperation with the governing bodies of the several
191 counties, towns or cities affected and the appropriate federal authority. Such boundaries shall, as a
192 minimum, encompass the entire urban place designated by the United States Bureau of the Census.

193 "Urbanized area" means an area so designated by the United States Bureau of the Census, within
194 boundaries fixed by the Commissioner of Highways, in his discretion, in cooperation with the governing
195 bodies of the several counties, towns or cities affected and the appropriate federal authority. Such
196 boundaries shall, as a minimum, encompass the entire urbanized area within a state as designated by the
197 United States Bureau of the Census.

198 "Virginia byway" and "scenic highway" mean those highways designated by the Commonwealth
199 Transportation Board pursuant to Article 5 (§ 33.1-62 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of this title. For the purposes
200 of the article, a Virginia byway shall mean a scenic byway as referenced in Title 23, United States
201 Code, § 131 (s).

202 "Visible" means capable of being seen (whether or not legible) without visual aid by a person of
203 normal visual acuity.