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HOUSE BILL NO. 1050

Offered January 8, 2014

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 33.1-355 of the Code of Virginia, relating to soil and water conservation district signs and advertisements.*

Patrons—Edmunds and Fariss

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 33.1-355 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 33.1-355. Excepted signs, advertisements and advertising structures.

The following signs and advertisements, if securely attached to real property or advertising structures, and the advertising structures, or parts thereof, upon which they are posted or displayed are excepted from all the provisions of this article save those enumerated in §§ 33.1-353, 33.1-356, 33.1-360, subdivisions (2) through (13) of § 33.1-369 and §§ 33.1-370 and 33.1-375:

(1) Advertisements securely attached to a place of business or residence, and not to exceed 10 advertising structures with combined total area, exclusive of the area occupied by the name of the business, owner or lessee, of advertisements and advertising structures not to exceed 500 square feet, erected or maintained, or caused to be erected or maintained, by the owner or lessee of such place of business or residence, within 250 feet of such place of business or residence or located on the real property of such place of business or residence and relating solely to merchandise, services or entertainment sold, produced, manufactured or furnished at such place of business or residence;

(2) Signs erected or maintained, or caused to be erected or maintained, on any farm by the owner or lessee of such farm and relating solely to farm produce, merchandise, services or entertainment sold, produced, manufactured or furnished on such farm;

(3) Signs upon real property posted or displayed by the owner, or by the authority of the owner, stating that the property, upon which the sign is located, or a part of such property, is for sale or rent or stating any data pertaining to such property and its appurtenances, and the name and address of the owner and the agent of such owner;

(4) Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the direction of any public or court officer in the performance of his official or directed duties, or by trustees under deeds of trust, deeds of assignment or other similar instruments;

(5) Danger or precautionary signs relating to the premises or signs warning of the condition of or dangers of travel on a highway, erected or authorized by the Commissioner of Highways; or forest fire warning signs erected under authority of the State Forester and signs, notices or symbols erected by the United States government under the direction of the United States Forestry Service;

(6) Notices of any telephone company, telegraph company, railroad, bridges, ferries or other transportation company necessary in the discretion of the Commissioner of Highways for the safety of the public or for the direction of the public to such utility or to any place to be reached by it;

(7) Signs, notices or symbols for the information of aviators as to location, direction and landings and conditions affecting safety in aviation erected or authorized by the Commissioner of Highways;

(8) Signs containing 16 square feet or less and bearing an announcement of any county, town, village or city, *soil and water conservation district*, or historic place or shrine, situated in this Commonwealth, advertising itself or local industries, meetings, buildings or attractions, provided the same is maintained wholly at public expense, or at the expense of such historic place or shrine;

(9) Signs or notices containing two square feet or less, placed at a junction of two or more roads in the State Highway System denoting only the distance or direction of a church, residence or place of business, provided such signs or notices do not exceed a reasonable number in the discretion of the Commissioner of Highways;

(10) Signs or notices erected or maintained upon property giving the name of the owner, lessee or occupant of the premises;

(11) Advertisements and advertising structures within the corporate limits of cities and towns, except as specified in § 33.1-353;

(12) Historical markers erected by duly constituted and authorized public authorities;

(13) Highway markers and signs erected, or caused to be erected, by the Commissioner or the Commonwealth Transportation Board or other authorities in accordance with law;

(14) Signs erected upon property warning the public against hunting, fishing or trespassing thereon;

(15) Signs erected by Red Cross authorities relating to Red Cross Emergency Stations. And authority

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HB1050

59 is hereby expressly given for the erection and maintenance of such signs upon the right-of-way of all
60 highways in this Commonwealth at such locations as may be approved by the Commissioner of
61 Highways;

62 (16) Signs advertising agricultural products and horticultural products, or either, when such products
63 are produced by the person who erects and maintains the signs; provided, however, that the location and
64 number of such signs shall be in the sole discretion of the Commissioner of Highways;

65 (17) Signs advertising only the name, time and place of bona fide agricultural, county, district or
66 state fairs, together with announcements of special events in connection therewith which do not consume
67 more than 50 percent of the display area of such signs, provided the person who posts the signs or
68 causes them to be posted will post a cash bond as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of
69 Highways, adequate to reimburse the Commonwealth for the actual cost of removing such signs as are
70 not removed within 30 days after the last day of the fair so advertised;

71 (18) Signs of eight square feet or less, or one sign structure containing more than one sign of eight
72 square feet or less, which denote only the name of a civic service club or church, location and directions
73 for reaching same, and time of meeting of such organization, provided such signs or notices do not
74 exceed a reasonable number as determined by the Commissioner of Highways;

75 (19) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 33.1-373, signs containing advertisements or notices that
76 have been authorized by a county and that are securely affixed to a public transit passenger shelter that
77 is owned by that county, provided, however, that no advertisement shall be placed within the
78 right-of-way of the federal interstate system, National Highway System, or the federal-aid primary
79 system of highways in violation of federal law. The prohibition in subdivision 8 of § 33.1-369 against
80 placing signs within 15 feet of the nearest edge of the pavement of any highway shall not apply to such
81 signs. The Commissioner of Highways may require the removal of any particular sign located on such a
82 shelter as provided in this subdivision if, in his judgement, such sign constitutes a safety hazard.