

1 H.418

2 Introduced by Representatives Manwaring of Wilmington, Botzow of Pownal,
3 Dakin of Chester, Johnson of South Hero, Marek of Newfane,
4 Martin of Wolcott, Miller of Shaftsbury, Partridge of Windham,
5 Peltz of Woodbury, Toll of Danville, Wilson of Manchester and
6 Winters of Williamstown

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Highways; rights-of-way; conservation and development; signs

10 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to:

11 (1) Authorize municipalities to erect above state highways signs,
12 including banners, advertising local events for up to two weeks prior to and
13 three days after an event;

14 (2) Permit on-premise sandwich board signs no greater than six square
15 feet to be erected in a highway right-of-way;

16 (3) Authorize placement in a highway right-of-way of speed control
17 signs that do not meet the standards of the manual on uniform traffic control
18 devices; and

19 (4) Permit signs to be displayed on public or private utility poles
20 adjacent to a highway, subject to the approval of, and to restrictions imposed
21 by, the legislative body of the municipality with jurisdiction over a town
22 highway, or the secretary of transportation in the case of state highways.

1 § 494. EXEMPT SIGNS

2 The following signs are exempt from the requirements of this chapter
3 except as indicated in section 495 of this title:

4 (1) Signs located on or in the rolling stock of common carriers.

5 (2) Signs on registered and inspected motor vehicles except those which
6 are determined by the travel information council to be circumventing the intent
7 of this chapter.

8 (3) Signs, with an area of not more than 260 square inches, identifying
9 stops or fare zone limits of common carriers by motor bus.

10 (4) Signs erected and maintained by a town outside the highway right-
11 of-way, each of which does not exceed 64 square feet in area, excluding panel
12 and frame, which may show the place and time of services or meetings of
13 churches and civic organizations in the town, and which may include a panel
14 which identifies the name of the town, the charter date, the date the town was
15 founded, or any other significant date in the history of the town, and which the
16 town wishes to identify. The panel may bear the wording "welcome to" the
17 particular town. Not more than two such signs may be erected and maintained
18 readable by traffic proceeding in any one direction on any one highway. The
19 signs shall meet the criteria of the ~~transportation~~ agency of transportation and
20 the travel information council.

21 (5) Residential directional signs, each of which does not exceed four
22 square feet in area, along highways other than limited-access facilities (but not

1 within the highway right-of-way), except that a license is required if the person
2 maintains a professional, commercial, or business activity at this residence and
3 wishes to indicate its existence.

4 (6) Official traffic control signs, ~~including signs on limited access~~
5 ~~highways~~ consistent with the manual on uniform traffic control devices,
6 ~~adopted~~ (MUTCD) as required under 23 V.S.A. § 1025, and official speed
7 control signs installed by the state or a municipality. Official traffic control
8 signs include signs on limited access highways consistent with the MUTCD
9 directing people to other towns, international airports, postsecondary
10 educational institutions; cultural and recreational destination areas; nonprofit
11 diploma granting educational institutions for people with disabilities; and
12 official traffic control signs, including signs on limited access highways,
13 consistent with the manual on uniform traffic control devices, adopted under
14 23 V.S.A. § 1025, directing people to official state visitor information centers.
15 After having considered the six priority categories in this subdivision, the
16 travel information council may approve installation of a sign for any of the
17 following:

- 18 (A) Nonprofit museums;
- 19 (B) Cultural and recreational attractions owned by the state or federal
20 government;
- 21 (C) Officially designated scenic byways;
- 22 (D) Park and ride or multimodal centers; and

1 (1) the signs and devices referred to in subdivisions 494(1), (2), (3), (6),
2 (7), (10), (14), and (17) of this title;

3 (2) on-premise sandwich board signs no greater than six square feet in
4 area that conform with local bylaws; or

5 (3) signs approved by the legislative body of the municipality (or
6 designee) with jurisdiction in the case of town highways or the secretary of
7 transportation (or designee) in the case of state highways to be displayed on
8 utility poles adjacent to a highway, subject to any conditions imposed by the
9 legislative body or the secretary or their respective designees.

10 (e) Except on ~~those highways maintained exclusively by the agency of~~
11 ~~transportation and on~~ limited access facilities, the limitation established by
12 subsection (d) of this section shall not apply to the signs and devices referred
13 to in subdivisions 494(9) and (11) of this title.

14 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 301 is amended to read:

15 § 301. POSTING UTILITY POLES

16 A Except if authorized by a municipality or the agency of transportation
17 pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 495(d)(3), a person who paints or posts a sign,
18 advertisement, or notice on a telegraph, telephone, or electric light pole shall
19 be fined \$5.00 for each offense.

