

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2300 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, WEBSTER AND FREEMAN, JANUARY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 30, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), entitled  
 2 "An act to empower cities of the second class A, and third  
 3 class, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships of the first  
 4 and second classes including those within a county of the  
 5 second class and counties of the second through eighth  
 6 classes, individually or jointly, to plan their development  
 7 and to govern the same by zoning, subdivision and land  
 8 development ordinances, planned residential development and  
 9 other ordinances, by official maps, by the reservation of  
 10 certain land for future public purpose and by the acquisition  
 11 of such land; to promote the conservation of energy through  
 12 the use of planning practices and to promote the effective  
 13 utilization of renewable energy sources; providing for the  
 14 establishment of planning commissions, planning departments,  
 15 planning committees and zoning hearing boards, authorizing  
 16 them to charge fees, make inspections and hold public  
 17 hearings; providing for mediation; providing for transferable  
 18 development rights; providing for appropriations, appeals to  
 19 courts and penalties for violations; and repealing acts and  
 20 parts of acts," in zoning, prohibiting the location of  
 21 advertising signs in certain locations.

22 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 23 hereby enacts as follows:

24 Section 1. The act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known  
 25 as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, is amended by  
 26 adding a section to read:

27 Section 622. Prohibiting the Location of Advertising Signs  
 28 in Certain Locations.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision

1 of law to the contrary and except as otherwise provided in  
2 subsection (b), an advertising sign may not be placed within  
3 1,000 feet from the property line of an existing school, public  
4 playground, public park, residential housing area, child care  
5 facility, church, meetinghouse or other actual place of  
6 regularly stated religious worship.

7 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an off-premises sign may  
8 be located less than 1,000 feet from the property line of an  
9 existing school, public playground, public park, residential  
10 housing area, child care facility, church, meetinghouse or other  
11 actual place of regularly stated religious worship if, by  
12 majority vote of the governing body for the municipality, the  
13 governing body gives necessary approvals.

14 (c) At least 14 days prior to the governing body of a  
15 municipality voting on whether to allow an off-premises sign  
16 less than 1,000 feet from the property line of a school, public  
17 playground, public park, residential housing area, child care  
18 facility, church, meetinghouse or other actual place of  
19 regularly stated religious worship, one or more public hearings  
20 shall be held within the municipality following public notice.  
21 All owners of real property located within 1,000 feet of the  
22 proposed location shall be provided written notice of the public  
23 hearing at least 30 days before the hearing is convened.

24 (d) As used in this section, the term "off-premises sign"  
25 shall mean:

26 (1) a freestanding sign that:

27 (i) is supported by one or more poles, uprights or  
28 braces;

29 (ii) consists of 32 square feet or more of gross  
30 surface area; and

1           (iii) is internally illuminated and visible from a  
2           public way that utilizes technology to permit the  
3           characters, letters or illustrations to be changed or  
4           rearranged by computer, electronically or mechanically,  
5           without altering the face of the sign; or

6           (2) an outdoor, off-premises sign on which space is  
7           leased or rented by the owner of the sign to others for the  
8           purpose of conveying a commercial or noncommercial message.

9           Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.