



Legislation Text

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Explanation: Capitals indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

**City of Baltimore
Council Bill**

Introduced by: Councilmember Reisinger

A Bill Entitled

An Ordinance concerning
Zoning - Signs - Conversion of Existing Non-Digital Billboards
For the purpose of amending the provisions concerning the conversion of non-digital billboards.

By repealing and reordaining, with amendments
Article 32 - Zoning
Section(s) 17-406(d) and (e)
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 32. Zoning

Title 17. Signs

§ 17-406. Billboards.

(d) *Conversion of existing non-digital billboards.*

[(1) *In general.*]

An existing non-digital billboard may be converted to a digital billboard only if:

- [(i) it is accompanied by documentation [that at least 3 existing billboard faces in the City have been removed for each new digital billboard face to be placed or erected;]
- (1) [(ii)] each message or image displayed on the digital billboard must be static or follow standards for electronic signs;

(2) [(iii)] digital animation, streaming video, or images that move or give the appearance of movement are prohibited;

(3) [(iv)] the digital billboard has ambient light monitors that automatically adjust the brightness level of the billboard based on ambient light conditions;

(4) [(v)] the billboard does not have audio speakers or any audio component;

[(vi) the new digital billboard is not relocated by more than 15 feet in any direction from its original location;]

[(vii) each billboard being removed is a minimum of 100 square feet;] and

(5) [(viii)] the applicant submits proof of current billboard tax payment at the time of application for conversion.

[(2) *Printed billboard removal credit.*]

[(i) The Zoning Administrator shall maintain an account of removals of existing printed billboards and shall credit the account of the owner of a printed billboard for each printed billboard that is removed.]

[(ii) In order to document the removal of a printed billboard, the owner shall submit to the Zoning Administrator a copy of the conversion permit for the removal of the billboard and photographs documenting the removal.]

[(iii) A printed billboard removal credit may be reserved and used by the original owner of the credit within 5 years after the removal of the printed billboard.]

(e) *Exclusions.*

An existing billboard may not be converted to a digital billboard if[:

(1) it is attached to a building that is 35 feet or less in height;]

[(2) it is a pole mounted billboard that is 35 feet or less in height; or

(3)] it is located in or within 250 feet of a residential district.

Section 2. And be it further ordained, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior Ordinance.

Section 3. And be it further ordained, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day after the date it is enacted.