

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 14-03

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Electronic Signs in Queen Anne’s County, Maryland;

FOR THE PURPOSE of allowing electronic signs in Queen Anne’s County subject to certain limitations; regulating the size, frequency of message changes, types of signs and maximum illumination, of electronic signs; and generally adopting provisions for the allowance and regulation of electronic signs;

BY ADDING a new Section 18:1-81 A. (13) to the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND that a new Section 18:1-81 A. (13) be added to the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland to read as follows:

§ 18:1-81 Permits; Alternations: Moving Signs; Locations; Performance Standards

A. Sign permit needed; exceptions.

(1) . . .

. . .

(13) Electronic Signs, including light-emitting diode (“LED”) signs, are permitted as freestanding signs subject to the following limitations:

(a) No electronic sign shall exceed sixty (60) square feet of the maximum freestanding sign surface area otherwise permitted pursuant to §18:1-81.A. (10) (b) [1] above; and

(b) Surface area copy may not change more frequently than one time per day.

(c) Electronic Signs shall have no revolving, flashing, moving, scrolling, rotating or similar intermittent lights or features that simulate movement.

(d) An electronic sign may not be animated, play video or audio messages or blink in any manner.

(e) An electronic sign shall consist only of alphabetic or numeric characters on a plain background and may not include graphic, pictorial, or photographic images.

(f) Electronic signs shall not exceed a maximum illumination of 7500 nits during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 750 nits for the time period between sunset and sunrise as measured from the sign's face at maximum brightness. The applicant shall provide written certification from the sign manufacturer that the light intensity has been preset not to exceed the levels specified above, and the intensity level is protected from end-user manipulation by password protected software or other appropriate methods.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46th) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Dumenil

DATE: July 8, 2014

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: August 26, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

VOTE: 4 Yea 1 Nay (Commissioner Dunmyer opposed)

DATE OF ADOPTION: September 9, 2014

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 25, 2014