

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 16-12

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the Regulation of LED and Electronic Signs in Queen Anne's County;

FOR THE PURPOSE of revising the regulations and limitations on electronic and light-emitting diode ("LED") signs in Queen Anne's County; permitting such signs to change once every 30 minutes; permitting graphic, pictorial or photographic images provided the same are not determined to be distasteful or distracting; and generally revising and updating the regulations of electronic and LED signs in Queen Anne's County;

BY AMENDING Section 18:1-81 A. (13) of 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 Section 18:1-81 A. (13) of the Code of Public Local Laws be and is hereby AMENDED to read as follows:

§18-1-81. Permits, alterations, moving signs, location, performance standards.

A. Sign permit needed; exceptions.

. . .

(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 60 square feet of the maximum *freestanding sign* surface area otherwise permitted pursuant to § 18:181A(10) (b) [1] above; and
- (b) Surface area copy may not change more frequently than ~~one time per day~~. every thirty minutes.
- (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 but~~ may ~~not~~ include graphic, pictorial, or photographic images, provided the same are not distasteful or distracting.
- (f) *Electronic signs* shall not exceed a maximum illumination of 7,500 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

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon introduction, this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission for their review and recommendation pursuant to § 18:1-220 of the Code of Public Local Laws:

SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46~) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Buckey

DATE: August 9, 2016

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: January 24, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: 3 Yea 2 Nay (Commissioners Anderson & Moran opposed)

DATE OF ADOPTION: February 14, 2017

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2017