

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL 549

By: Standridge

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to outdoor advertising; amending 69 O.S. 2011, Section 1273, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2016 (69 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1273), which relates to definitions; modifying certain agreements for the relocation of certain outdoor advertising signs; updating statutory reference; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2011, Section 1273, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2016 (69 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1273), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1273. As used in ~~this act~~ Section 1271 et seq. of this title:

(a) "Sign", "outdoor advertising" or "outdoor advertising device" means any outdoor sign, display, device, notice, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard or other thing which is designed, intended or used to advertise or inform, but shall not include surface markers showing the location or route

1 of underground utility facilities or pipelines or public telephone
2 coin stations installed for emergency use.

3 (b) "Main traveled way" means the traveled way of a highway on
4 which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway,
5 the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in
6 opposite directions is a main traveled way. It does not include
7 such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways or parking
8 areas.

9 (c) "To erect" and its variants means to construct, build,
10 raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw or in any
11 other way bring into being or establish. But these shall not
12 include any of the foregoing activities when performed as incident
13 to the change of advertising message or customary maintenance of the
14 sign structure.

15 (d) "Unzoned commercial or industrial areas" means those areas
16 which are not zoned by state or local law, regulation or ordinance,
17 and on which there is located one or more permanent structures
18 devoted to a commercial or industrial activity or on which a
19 commercial or industrial activity is actually conducted, whether or
20 not a permanent structure is located thereon, and the area along the
21 highway extending outward six hundred (600) feet from and beyond the
22 edge of such activity on both sides of the highway. Provided
23 however, the unzoned area shall not include land on the opposite
24 side of an interstate or dual-laned limited access primary highway

1 from the commercial or industrial activity establishing the unzoned
2 commercial or industrial area or land on the opposite side of other
3 federal-aid primary highways, which land is deemed scenic by an
4 appropriate agency of the state.

5 All measurements shall be from the outer edges of the regularly
6 used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing areas of the
7 commercial or industrial activities, not from the property lines of
8 the activities, and shall be along or parallel to the edge of
9 pavement of the highway. Such an area shall not include any area
10 which is beyond six hundred sixty (660) feet from the nearest edge
11 of the right-of-way. In unzoned commercial or industrial areas
12 signs shall not be located:

13 (1) Within three hundred (300) feet of any building used
14 primarily as a residence, unless the owner of the
15 building consents in writing to allow the sign to
16 exist; or

17 (2) Within five hundred (500) feet of any of the
18 following: public park, garden, recreation area or
19 forest preserve, church, school and officially
20 designated historical battlefield.

21 All spacing considerations are determined by whether or not they
22 exist within the adjacent or control area.

23 (e) "Commercial and industrial activities" means those
24 activities, clearly visible from the main traveled way, generally

1 recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this
2 state, except that none of the following shall be considered
3 commercial or industrial:

- 4 (1) Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming and
5 related activities, including, but not limited to,
6 wayside fresh produce stands;
- 7 (2) Outdoor advertising structures;
- 8 (3) Transient or temporary activities;
- 9 (4) Activities more than six hundred sixty (660) feet from
10 the nearest edge of the right-of-way;
- 11 (5) Activities conducted in a building principally used as
12 a residence; and
- 13 (6) Railroad tracks and minor sidings.

14 (f) "Official signs" means signs and notices erected and
15 maintained by public officers or public agencies within their
16 territorial jurisdiction and pursuant to and in accordance with
17 direction or authorization contained in federal or state law for the
18 purposes of carrying out an official duty or responsibility.

19 (g) "Informational signs" means signs containing directions or
20 information about public places owned or operated by federal, state
21 or local governments or their agencies, publicly or privately owned
22 natural phenomena, historic, cultural, educational and religious
23 sites, and areas of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for
24

1 outdoor recreation, deemed to be in the interest of the traveling
2 public.

3 (h) "On-premise activities signs" means signs advertising
4 activities conducted upon the property on which the signs are
5 located.

6 (i) "On-premise sale or lease signs" means signs advertising
7 the sale or lease of property on which they are located.

8 (j) "Interstate highway" means any highway at any time
9 officially designated a part of the National System of Interstate
10 and Defense Highways by the Department and approved by the
11 appropriate authority of the federal government.

12 (k) "Primary highway" means the Federal-aid Primary System in
13 existence on June 1, 1991, and any highway which is not on that
14 system but is on the National Highway System.

15 (l) "Centerline of the highway" means a line equidistant from
16 the edges of the median separating the main traveled ways of a
17 divided highway, or the centerline of the main traveled way of a
18 nondivided highway.

19 (m) "Adjacent area" or "control area" means the area which is
20 adjacent to and within six hundred sixty (660) feet of the nearest
21 edge of the right-of-way on any interstate or primary highway within
22 urban areas, which six hundred sixty-foot distance shall be measured
23 horizontally along a line perpendicular to, or ninety (90) degrees
24 to, the centerline of the highway. Outside of urban areas, adjacent

1 area or control area means the area which is visible from the main
2 traveled way on any interstate or primary highway.

3 (n) "Business area" means any part of a control area which is:

4 (1) Within six hundred sixty (660) feet of the nearest
5 edge of the right-of-way and zoned for business,
6 industrial or commercial activities under the
7 authority of any state zoning law, or city or county
8 zoning ordinance of this state; or

9 (2) Not so zoned, but which constitutes an unzoned
10 commercial or industrial area as herein defined.

11 (o) "Department" means the Department of Transportation of the
12 State of Oklahoma.

13 (p) "Maintain" means to hold or keep in a state of efficiency
14 or validity, to support or sustain, by cleaning or repairing the
15 sign or changing the message on its face.

16 (q) "Visible" means capable of being seen without visual aid by
17 a person of normal visual acuity.

18 (r) "License" means the privilege to do business in the State
19 of Oklahoma having been granted by an official agency.

20 (s) "Permit" means the privilege to erect a sign or signs in an
21 individual location within the State of Oklahoma having been granted
22 by an official agency.

23 (t) "License fee" means the monetary consideration paid for the
24 privilege of doing business in the State of Oklahoma.

1 (u) "Permit fee" means the monetary consideration paid for the
2 privilege of erecting a sign or signs in a specific location within
3 the State of Oklahoma.

4 (v) "Urban area" means an urbanized area or, in the case of an
5 urbanized area encompassing more than one state, that part of the
6 urbanized area in each such state, or an urban place as designated
7 by the Bureau of the Census having a population of five thousand
8 (5,000) or more and not within any urbanized area, within boundaries
9 to be fixed by responsible state and local officials in cooperation
10 with each other, subject to approval by the Secretary of
11 Transportation. Such boundaries shall, as a minimum, encompass the
12 entire urban place designated by the Bureau of the Census.

13 (w) "Relocation permit" means a permit issued pursuant to the
14 provisions of subparagraph (d) of paragraph (3) of Section 1275 of
15 this title. A relocation permit shall have precedence over any
16 municipal or county restriction that interferes with the intended
17 purpose of providing a method and opportunity to minimize the cost
18 of acquiring legally erected outdoor advertising signs by the
19 Department, ~~unless,; provided, however,~~ for those municipalities
20 with a population in excess of five hundred thousand (500,000) based
21 on the most recent census data, ~~it is otherwise stipulated in the~~
22 ~~applicable Right-of-Way, Public Utility and Encroachment Agreement~~
23 ~~or Agreements and agreed upon by all signatory authorities. Any~~
24 ~~owner of a registered sign to be acquired shall be offered an~~

~~opportunity to comment on said agreement prior to execution. neither~~
~~a relocation permit nor any outdoor advertising sign permit shall be~~
~~issued in those areas in which a municipality or county has lawfully~~
~~enacted a prohibition on the erection of an outdoor advertising~~
~~sign.~~ This section shall not prohibit a registered sign owner from
seeking just compensation through a legal proceeding.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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