## **HOUSE BILL 1334**

R1 7lr2837

By: Delegates A. Washington, Jalisi, McCray, Sanchez, Tarlau, Valderrama, and Valentino-Smith Valentino-Smith, and Healey

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017 Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2017

CHAPTER

1 AN ACT concerning

## 2 State Highway Administration – Traffic Control Devices – Decorative Treatments

- FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to establish a certain 4 5 policy regarding the application of decorative treatments on certain traffic control 6 devices; authorizing a person to apply to a district office within the Administration 7 for a certain permit to install certain decorative treatments; authorizing a district 8 office to issue a permit to install certain decorative treatments on a traffic control 9 device within the jurisdiction of the district office; requiring the Administration to 10 adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Administration to adopt certain 11 regulations; and generally relating to the installation of decorative treatments on 12 traffic control devices.
- 13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 14 Article Transportation
- 15 Section 8–101(a) and (b)
- 16 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)
- 18 BY adding to
- 19 Article Transportation
- 20 Section 8–659
- 21 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

## EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1	Preamble
2	WHEREAS, Traffic signal cabinets are a magnet for graffiti; and
3 4	WHEREAS, Decorative treatments on traffic signal cabinets beautify public spaces, build community, and are a demonstrated method to mitigate and prevent graffiti; and
5 6	WHEREAS, Cities across the country have successfully implemented programs to transform graffitied traffic signal cabinets into works of art; and
7 8	WHEREAS, The State Highway Administration's current methodology for addressing graffiti is ineffective and propagates additional graffiti; now, therefore,
9 10	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
11	Article - Transportation
12	8–101.
13	(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.
14	(b) "Administration" means the State Highway Administration.
15	8-659.
16 17	(A) IN THIS SECTION, "TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11–167 OF THIS ARTICLE.
18 19 20	(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A POLICY THAT ALLOWS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF DECORATIVE TREATMENTS ON TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES THAT HAVE BEEN MARRED BY GRAFFITI OR VANDALISM THAT INCLUDES:
21	(1) ILLICIT WRITINGS OR DRAWINGS;
22	(2) ILLEGAL POSTINGS; OR
23	(3) BLIGHT FROM INCOMPLETE MITIGATION OF GRAFFITI.
24 25 26 27	(C) (1) A PERSON MAY APPLY TO THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT OFFICE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL A DECORATIVE TREATMENT, INCLUDING A DIGITALLY PRINTED VINYL WRAP OR PAINT, ON A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE.

- 1 **(2)** SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, A DISTRICT 2OFFICE MAY ISSUE A PERMIT TO INSTALL A DECORATIVE TREATMENT ON A TRAFFIC 3 CONTROL DEVICE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE. 4 (D) **(1)** THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR THE 5 INSTALLATION OF DECORATIVE TREATMENTS THAT PROHIBIT DECORATIVE 6 TREATMENTS FROM: 7 **(I)** INTERFERING WITH THE OPERATION OR MAINTENANCE OF 8 A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE; OR 9 (II)OBSTRUCTING ACCESS TO AND VENTILATION OF A TRAFFIC 10 CONTROL DEVICE. 11 **(2) (I)** SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE 12 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT VIEWPOINT AND CONTENT NEUTRAL REGULATIONS THAT PROVIDE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR DECORATIVE TREATMENTS. 13 14 (II)A DECORATIVE TREATMENT MAY NOT: 15 1. CONTAIN AN ADVERTISEMENT; 2. 16 CONTAIN AN IMAGE OR A DESCRIPTION OF GRAPHIC 17 **VIOLENCE;** 18 3. **CONTAIN PROFANITY;** 19 4. CONTAIN PORNOGRAPHY, OBSCENE MATERIAL, OR 20**IMAGES OF NUDITY;** 21**5.** DEMEAN OR DISPARAGE AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP 22OF INDIVIDUALS; 236. VIOLATE A COPYRIGHT OR ANY OTHER LEGAL 24OWNERSHIP INTEREST; OR 25 7. UNNECESSARILY ENGAGE THE ATTENTION  $\mathbf{OF}$ 26 DRIVERS OR CAUSE DRIVER DISTRACTION.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 30 October 1, 2017.

MAY

ADOPT

ANY

**ADDITIONAL** 

ADMINISTRATION

REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

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