

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To impose, on an temporary basis, a moratorium upon the issuance of permits for the erection or construction of any off-premises sign, special sign, or wall sign until after the Council has held a hearing and passed legislation to affirmatively establish the District of Columbia's policy for the erection or construction of such signs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Off-Premises Wall Sign Moratorium Temporary Act of 2000".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

- (1) "Off-premises sign" means a business sign which directs the attention of the public to the business or activity conducted, or the product or service sold or offered, at a location not on the same premises where the business sign is located.
- (2) "Premises" means an area under a single ownership or a single lease, no part of which is separated from the other by any land under a different ownership or lease agreement.
- (3) "Sign" means an identification, description, illustration, or device which is affixed, directly or indirectly, upon a building, structure, or land and which directs attention to a product, place, activity, person, institution, or business.
- (4) "Special sign" means those signs referred to in section 3115.4.2 through 3115.4.10 of Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.
- (5) "Wall sign" means a sign which is painted on, or firmly attached to, a wall of a building and which does not extend beyond the building more than 12 inches.

Sec. 3. Moratorium on new erection or construction of off-premises signs.

(a) Notwithstanding the amendments to Chapter 31 of Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (District of Columbia Building Code) adding subsections 3115.4.2 through 3115.4.2.10, published in the District of Columbia Register on September 22,

2000 (47 DCR 7695), there shall be imposed a moratorium upon the issuance of permits for the erection or construction of any off-premises sign, special sign, or wall sign which is used or intended for use to advertise, identify, or direct or attract the attention of the public to a business, institution, product, organization, event, person, or location offered or existing elsewhere than upon the same lot, tract, or parcel of land where such sign is displayed.

(b) The moratorium imposed under subsection (a) of this section shall continue until the Council determines, after a hearing convened under section 1 of An Act To regulate the erection, hanging, placing, painting, display, and maintenance of outdoor signs and other forms of exterior advertising within the District of Columbia, whether, and to what extent, regulations should be issued governing, controlling, or restricting the erection, hanging, placing, painting, displaying, and maintaining of off-premises signs, special signs, or wall signs, and other similar forms of exterior advertising within the District of Columbia.

Sec. 4. Notwithstanding any other law, this act shall not apply to persons who, on or before November 8, 2000, have been issued a special sign permit (location approved only) Form BLRA-15 under section 3115.4.2.5 of Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (12 DCMR § 3115.4.2.4).

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the attached fiscal impact statement as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(3)).

Sec. 6. Effective date.

(a) This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in Section 203(a) of the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code §47-392.3(a), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in Section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code §1-233(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

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(b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect or upon the effective date of the Off-Premises Wall Sign Moratorium Act of 2000, whichever occurs first.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia