

matching federal funds are available to the State. I am fearful that the fiscal impact of Senate Bill 702 could result in a discontinuance of existing sign control programs and would provide a severe fiscal disincentive to any future regulation.

The mechanism provided in the bill for payment "in accordance with the just compensation schedule of the State Department of Transportation" also is troublesome. The Department of Transportation's schedule was developed to implement the Federal Highway Beautification Act, which requires each State to develop "effective control" measures for billboards located within a certain distance of a federally aided primary or an interstate highway. The existing schedule, therefore, pertains only to large signs and does not cover the wide array of signs which may be included within the scope of the bill's undefined class of "off-premises outdoor advertising signs."

In conclusion, I am vetoing Senate Bill 702, not because I oppose compensation to sign owners, but because it does not provide sufficient local flexibility and because its substantial fiscal impact may well halt sign regulation programs at the local level.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

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Senate Bill No. 709

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County - Dog Tags and Licenses

FOR the purpose of requiring that dog tags in Anne Arundel County be impressed with the expiration date of a dog license; exempting dog tags in Anne Arundel County from the requirement that dog tags change shape from year to year; providing that dog licenses in Anne Arundel County expire when rabies vaccination certificates expire; and generally relating to dog tags and licenses in Anne Arundel County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 56 - Licenses  
Section 191(m) and 193