



HOUSE BILL 613: Clarify Political Sign Ordinance Authority

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Local Government, if favorable, Elections	Date:	April 23, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Brawley, Floyd	Prepared by:	Kelly Tornow Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

SUMMARY: House Bill 613 would authorize a municipality to enforce State law concerning the placement of political signs in the right-of-way of those portions of the State Highway System that are located within the municipality, and would allow a municipality to remove political signs that are in violation of G.S. 136-32.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 136-32(f) allows a city, by ordinance, to prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located with the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality.

If a city does not have such an ordinance, the provisions of G.S. 136-32 for placement of signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system apply. G.S. 136-32 allows persons to place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system during the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of one-stop early voting and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day. A permittee must obtain permission from the property owner fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed according to the following requirements:

- No sign can be in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- No sign can be closer than 3 feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign can obstruct motorist visibility at an intersection.
- No sign can be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- No sign can be larger than 864 square inches.
- No sign can obscure or replace another sign.

It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a lawfully placed political sign.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 613 would clarify that municipalities are authorized to enforce the provisions of G.S. 136-32 on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality, and authorizes municipalities to enforce the provisions of G.S. 136-32 on the rights-of-way of the portions of the State Highway System located within the municipality. The bill also would allow municipalities to remove any signs that do not comply with the law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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