



SENATE BILL 208: Limit Local Restrictions/Noncommercial Signs.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Daniel, Hise	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons*
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 208 would prohibit local government regulation of the size or height of noncommercial signs not exceeding specified dimensions that are placed outside of any State highway or municipal street right-of-way on private property with the permission of the owner. This act would be effective when it becomes law.*

CURRENT LAW: Local governments are currently authorized to prohibit or regulate the placement of signs on private property under planning and general police powers granted in Articles 6 and 18 of Chapter 153A and Articles 8 and 19 of 160A of the General Statutes.

G.S. 136-32 permits only political signs meeting certain location and size requirements to be placed in the right-of-way of the State highway system during a limited period in connection with primaries and elections. These requirements also apply to a political sign that is placed within the right-of-way of a municipal street if such signs are not prohibited or regulated by a municipal ordinance. For purposes of this statute, a "political sign" is defined as a noncommercial sign that advocates for political action.

BILL ANALYSIS: **Sections 1 and 2** would prohibit county regulation of the size or height of a noncommercial sign, including a political sign as defined in G.S. 136-32, if the sign does not exceed 64 square feet in size and 6 feet in height and is placed on private property with the owner's permission outside of any right-of-way of a State Highway.

Sections 3 and 4 would prohibit municipal regulation of the size or height of a noncommercial sign, including a political sign as defined in G.S. 136-32, if the sign does not exceed 64 square feet in size and 6 feet in height and is placed on private property with the owner's permission outside of any right-of-way of a State Highway or municipal street.

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

**Bill Patterson, counsel to Senate State and Local Government, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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