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SENATE BILL No. 167

Proposed Changes to January 16, 2026 printing by AM016701

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Outdoor advertising signs. Requires all of the above ground portions of all outdoor advertising signs located within the boundaries of an excluded city, except for those located in a historic district, to be removed not later than January 1, 2027. Permits the relocation or construction of outdoor advertising signs in a historic district. Requires all outdoor advertising signs located in a historic district to be digital outdoor advertising signs.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 8-23-20-28 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 28. (a) As used in this section,
4 "excluded city" has the meaning set forth in IC 36-7-1-6.5.
5 [(b) As used in this section, "historic district" means a district
6 or neighborhood located within an excluded city that has been
7 designated as a local historic district by the excluded city's historic
8 preservation commission.
9 [(c) As used in this section, "relocate" means to:
10 (1) remove all of the above ground portions of an existing
11 outdoor advertising sign; and
12 (2) construct a new outdoor advertising sign.
13 (d) As used in this section, "zoning authority" means any
14 agency, officer, board, or commission of:
15 (1) a county having a consolidated city; or
16 (2) an excluded city, as provided in IC 36-7-4-201;
17 that may issue a permit or an approval with respect to land use or

SB 167—LS 6711/DI 153



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the construction of an outdoor advertising sign.

~~(d) Notwithstanding any state or federal law and except as provided in subsections (e) and (f), the department or a zoning authority may not apply zoning standards or require a permit to relocate~~ [e] Except for an outdoor advertising sign ~~<it>~~ [located within a historic district,] all of the ~~<following apply:~~

~~— (1) The advertising space~~ [above ground portions] of ~~<the new>~~ [all] outdoor advertising ~~<sign is equal to the advertising space of the existing outdoor advertising sign, measured by total square footage.~~

~~— (2) The location of the new outdoor advertising sign is:~~

~~— (A) within:~~

~~— (i) the market area (as defined in section 25.6(a) of this chapter); and~~

~~— (ii) six hundred sixty (660) feet of a highway, street, or road; and~~

~~— (B) zoned to allow any commercial or industrial activity.~~

~~(3) The new outdoor advertising sign conforms to the standards of:~~

~~— (A) size;~~

~~— (B) lighting; and~~

~~— (C) spacing between signs as designated for the interstate system and limited access facilities;~~

~~— as set forth in rules adopted by the department under the provisions of an agreement under section 1 of this chapter.~~

~~(4) The relocation will not result in the upgrade of an outdoor advertising sign to an electronic billboard.~~

~~This subsection applies regardless of whether the new outdoor advertising sign would be constructed with the same or new components or in the same configuration or an alternative configuration.~~

~~(e) An existing outdoor advertising sign~~ [signs] located within the boundaries of an excluded city ~~<may not be relocated outside the excluded city unless the county or municipality to which>~~ [must be removed not later than January 1, 2027.]

(f) The department and a zoning authority may permit the relocation of an existing outdoor advertising sign or the construction of a new outdoor advertising sign within the boundaries of an excluded city only if the outdoor advertising sign will be ~~<relocated approves of the relocation.~~

~~(f) A zoning authority may require:~~

~~— (1) a permit; or~~

SB 167—LS 6711/DI 153



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1 ~~— (2) an inspection;~~
2 ~~to relocate an~~ located within a historic district.
3 (g) An outdoor advertising sign ~~< if the purpose is to ensure~~
4 ~~compliance with national codes or rules adopted by the fire~~
5 ~~prevention and building safety commission under IC 22-13-2-2.~~
6 ~~However, if the zoning authority does not issue a permit decision~~
7 ~~within thirty (30) days of receiving an application, the permit is~~
8 ~~granted.~~
9 > located within a historic district must be a digital outdoor
10 advertising sign. An existing, nondigital outdoor advertising sign
11 located within a historic district must be converted to a digital
12 outdoor advertising sign not later than July 1, 2027.
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SB 167—LS 6711/DI 153



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