



House Bill 481 – Transportation – Commercial Signs – Penalty

Position: Oppose

Maryland REALTORS® opposes HB 481 which increases the fine on commercial signs in state highway right-a-ways from a maximum of \$25 to \$1,000. While the Maryland REALTORS® understands that this fine has not been increased in several years, it opposes a 40-fold increase.

The Maryland REALTORS® recommends that a much lower increase be considered or a multi-level fine structure be implemented that allows for a less burdensome first-time offense and then escalates to a higher fine on subsequent offences.

There are many counties that permit real estate signs and other signage on county roads as long as those signs comply with county limitations. Unfortunately, it is not always obvious to individuals what roads are county roads (where signs are permitted) and which roads are state roads. Fining an individual up to a \$1,000 for a simple mistake is unfair.

For these reasons, the Maryland REALTORS® opposes HB 481.

**For more information contact bill.castelli@mdrealtor.org or
susan.mitchell@mdrealtor.org**