

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 594 (Delegate Parrott, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Landlord and Tenant - Candidate Signs and Proposition Signs

This bill prohibits a residential landlord or mobile home park owner from requiring, prohibiting, or restricting the display of a candidate sign or proposition sign by a tenant or resident. The bill also prohibits a landlord or mobile home park operator from requiring a tenant or resident to obtain the landlord's or park owner's approval before displaying a candidate or proposition sign. Neither of these prohibitions may be waived in any lease or rental agreement.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to impact State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to impact local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the bill, "candidate sign" means a sign on behalf of a candidate or slate of candidates for public office. "Proposition sign" means a sign that advertises the support or defeat of any question submitted to voters in accordance with the Election Law Article.

Current Law: State law does not prohibit a residential landlord or a mobile home park owner from requiring, prohibiting, or restricting the display of a candidate sign or proposition sign by a tenant or resident.

With respect to a condominium, homeowners association, or cooperative house corporation, collectively referred to as common ownership communities (COCs), limitations may not restrict or prohibit the display of a candidate sign or a sign that advertises the support or defeat of any question submitted to the voters in accordance with the Election Law Article. COCs may restrict the display of signs (1) in the common areas; (2) in accordance with provisions of federal, State, and local law; or (3) to a time period not less than 30 days before the primary or general election or the vote on the proposition, and 7 days after the election or vote, if a limitation is not specified by local law.

Background: The Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, advises that, while it does not specifically track complaints involving candidate or proposition signs, it estimates that it has received at least one complaint in recent history.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2017
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