



February 5, 2020

**Senate Bill 131**

**State Highways – Commercial Signs in Rights-of-Way – Penalties**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 131 State Highways – Commercial Signs in Rights-of-Way – Penalties. This Bill would increase the maximum civil penalty applicable to a violation for affixing a commercial sign to a State highway sign, signal, or marker in the State highway right-of-way.

Illegal signs affixed to State highway signs, signals, and markers in state highway rights of way are not only an aesthetic problem, but a public safety problem as well. Illegal signs distract drivers, obscure traffic control measures, and impede bicyclists and pedestrians, all which increase the risk of accidents and injuries. Increasing the maximum civil penalty for persons who violate the prohibition on illegally affixing commercial signs to State highway signs, signals, and markers will help deter a practice which diminishes the safety of all who travel our public roadways.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 131.