

AN ACT

relating to the removal of certain on-premise signs in a municipality.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 216.003, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the ~~The~~ owner of a sign that is required to be relocated, reconstructed, or removed is entitled to be compensated by the municipality for costs associated with the relocation, reconstruction, or removal.

(e) A municipality that exercises authority under this subchapter may, without paying compensation as provided by this subchapter, require the removal of an on-premise sign or sign structure not sooner than the first anniversary of the date the business, person, or activity that the sign or sign structure identifies or advertises ceases to operate on the premises on which the sign or sign structure is located. If the premises containing the sign or sign structure is leased, a municipality may not require removal under this subsection sooner than the second anniversary after the date the most recent tenant ceases to operate on the premises. The removal of a sign or sign structure as described by this subsection does not require the appointment of a board under Section 216.004.

1        (f) A municipality acting under Subsection (e) may agree  
2 with the owner of the sign or sign structure to remove only a  
3 portion of the sign or sign structure.

4        SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 216.010, Local  
5 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

6        (b) If any [a] sign is required to be relocated or  
7 reconstructed, or an on-premise sign is required to be removed, the  
8 municipality, acting pursuant to the Property Redevelopment and Tax  
9 Abatement Act (Chapter 312, Tax Code), may abate municipal property  
10 taxes that otherwise would be owed by the owner of the sign. The  
11 abated taxes may be on any real or personal property owned by the  
12 owner of the sign except residential property. The right to the  
13 abatement of taxes is assignable by the holder, and the assignee may  
14 use the right to abatement with respect to taxes on any  
15 nonresidential property in the same taxing jurisdiction. In a  
16 municipality where tax abatement is used to pay compensable costs,  
17 the costs include reasonable interest and the abatement period may  
18 not exceed five years.

19        SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

S.B. No. 656

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 656 passed the Senate on April 8, 2003, by a viva-voce vote; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 20, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 656 passed the House, with amendment, on May 16, 2003, by a non-record vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor