

By: Harper-Brown

H.B. No. 3153

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to eligibility criteria for information logo signs and  
3 tourist-oriented directional signs located along a highway.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 391.001(2), (9), and (12),  
6 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (2) "Eligible highway" means a highway along which an  
8 information logo sign may be located as determined by the  
9 commission under Section 391.092(d) [~~that:~~

10 [~~(A) is located outside an urbanized area with a~~  
11 ~~population of 50,000 or more and qualifies for a maximum speed limit~~  
12 ~~of 65 miles per hour under 23 U.S.C. Section 154 or, if that law is~~  
13 ~~repealed, qualified for a maximum speed limit of 65 miles per hour~~  
14 ~~on the day before the effective date of the repeal, or~~

15 [~~(B) is a controlled-access highway located~~  
16 ~~inside an urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more].~~

17 (9) "Major shopping area guide sign" means a  
18 rectangular guide sign panel imprinted with the name of a major  
19 shopping area eligible to have its name displayed as determined by  
20 the commission under Section 391.0935~~[, as it is commonly known to~~  
21 ~~the public,]~~ and containing directional information to the major  
22 shopping area.

23 (12) "Specific information logo sign" means a  
24 rectangular sign imprinted with the words "GAS," "FOOD," "LODGING,"

1 [~~or~~] "CAMPING," or "24 HOUR Rx," or with a combination of those  
2 words, and the specific brand names of commercial establishments  
3 offering those services.

4 SECTION 2. Section 391.092, Transportation Code, is amended  
5 by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

6 (d) The commission shall adopt rules, in accordance with  
7 applicable federal law, regulations, and guidelines, for  
8 determining eligible highways along which specific information  
9 logo signs, major shopping area guide signs, and tourist-oriented  
10 directional signs may be located. If permitted by federal law,  
11 regulations, or guidelines, the commission may establish different  
12 highway eligibility criteria for each type of sign.

13 SECTION 3. Sections 391.0935(a), (b), (d), and (f),  
14 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follow:

15 (a) Unless the commission determines there is a conflict  
16 with federal law, the commission shall establish a program that  
17 allows the erection and maintenance of major shopping area guide  
18 signs at appropriate locations along eligible [~~urban~~] highways.

19 (b) The commission shall adopt rules regulating the  
20 content, composition, placement, erection, and maintenance of  
21 major shopping area guide signs and supports within eligible  
22 [~~urban~~] highway rights-of-way. The commission by rule shall  
23 establish criteria for determining if a geographic area contains a  
24 sufficient concentration of retail establishments to be considered  
25 a major shopping area. A major shopping area is entitled to have  
26 its name displayed on major shopping area guide signs if it meets  
27 the criteria established by the commission and is located not

1 farther than three miles from an interchange on an eligible [~~urban~~]  
2 highway.

3 (d) Major shopping area guide signs may be included as part  
4 of exit direction signs, advance guide signs, and supplemental  
5 guide signs and must include guide signs for both directions of  
6 traffic on an eligible [~~urban~~] highway.

7 (f) The commission may contract with an individual, firm,  
8 group, or association in this state to erect and maintain major  
9 shopping area guide signs at appropriate locations along an  
10 eligible [~~urban~~] highway.

11 SECTION 4. Section 391.099(a)(2), Transportation Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (2) "Eligible highway" means a highway along which a  
14 tourist-oriented directional sign may be located as determined by  
15 the commission under Section 391.092(d) [~~that~~

16 [~~(A) has noncontrolled access, and~~

17 [~~(B) is outside the corporate limits of a~~  
18 ~~municipality with a population of 5,000 or more]~~.

19 SECTION 5. Sections 391.001(3) and (8) Transportation Code,  
20 are repealed.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.