

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS35018-LU-6A

Short Title: Ricky's Law/Political Sign Placement.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Perry, Craven, and Sawyer (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REDUCE THE TIME ALLOWED TO PLACE A POLITICAL SIGN IN A
3 RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM 30 DAYS TO 10 DAYS BEFORE ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING
4 AND 10 DAYS AFTER THE PRIMARY OR ELECTION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 136-32 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

8 ...

9 (b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. – During the period beginning on the 30th-10th
10 day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the
11 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way
12 of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with
13 subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this
14 subsection. Any political sign remaining in the right-of-way of the State highway system more
15 than 30-10 days after the end of the period prescribed in this subsection shall be deemed
16 unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of such
17 political sign without penalty.

18 ...

19 (f) Application Within Municipalities. – Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the
20 General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on
21 rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by
22 the municipality. Any such ordinance shall provide that any political sign that remains in a
23 right-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by
24 the municipality more than 30-10 days after the end of the period prescribed in the ordinance is
25 to be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose
26 of such political sign without penalty. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating
27 the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and
28 maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall
29 apply."

30 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to the placement
31 of political signs for an election held on or after that date.

