

26105136D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 649**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-1224 of the Code of Virginia, relating to removal of certain signs and*
5 *advertisements placed within the limits of highways; agreements with local governing bodies;*
6 *requirements.*

7 Patron—Hayes

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That § 33.2-1224 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**11 **§ 33.2-1224. Signs or advertising on rocks, poles, etc., within limits of highway; civil penalty.**

12 Any person who in any manner (i) paints, prints, places, puts, or affixes any sign or advertisement upon or
13 to any rock, stone, tree, fence, stump, pole, mile-board, milestone, danger-sign, guide-sign, guidepost,
14 highway sign, historical marker, building, or other object lawfully within the limits of any highway or (ii)
15 erects, paints, prints, places, puts, or affixes any sign or advertisement within the limits of any highway is
16 subject to a civil penalty of \$100. Each occurrence shall be subject to a separate penalty. All civil penalties
17 collected under this section shall be paid into the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund. Signs or
18 advertisements placed within the limits of the highway are hereby declared a public and private nuisance and
19 may be forthwith removed, obliterated, or abated by the Commissioner of Highways or his representatives
20 without notice. The Commissioner of Highways may collect the cost of such removal, obliteration, or
21 abatement from the person erecting, painting, printing, placing, putting, affixing, or using such sign or
22 advertisement. When no one is observed erecting, painting, printing, placing, putting, or affixing such sign or
23 advertisement, the person, firm, or corporation being advertised shall be presumed to have placed the sign or
24 advertisement and shall be punished accordingly. Such presumption, however, shall be rebuttable by
25 competent evidence. In addition, the Commissioner of Highways or his representative may seek to enjoin any
26 recurring violator of this section. The Commissioner of Highways may enter into agreements with any local
27 governing body authorizing local law-enforcement agencies or other local governmental entities to act as
28 agents of the Commissioner of Highways for the purpose of (i) enforcing the provisions of this section and
29 (ii) collecting the penalties and costs provided for in this section. Any such agreement may provide that
30 penalties and costs collected pursuant to such agreement shall be paid as agreed.

31 *Any such agreement shall provide that the locality shall not authorize volunteers to act on behalf of such*
32 *locality for the removal of any signs or advertisements that constitute an advertisement under § 24.2-955.1.*

33 The provisions of this section shall not apply to signs or outdoor advertising regulated under other
34 provisions of this chapter.

INTRODUCED

HB649