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Periodic Review and Small Business Impact Review Report of Findings

Agency name	Commonwealth Transportation Board
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	24 VAC30-120
VAC Chapter title(s)	Rules and Regulations Controlling Outdoor Advertising and Directional and Other Signs and Notices
Date this document prepared	8/24/2021

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1VAC7-10), and the **Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code**.

Acronyms and Definitions

Define all acronyms used in this Report, and any technical terms that are not also defined in the "Definitions" section of the regulation.

CTB means the Commonwealth Transportation Board.
U.S.C. means the United States Code.

Legal Basis

Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency's overall regulatory authority.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board promulgated the Rules and Regulations Controlling Outdoor Advertising and Directional and Other Signs and Notices, 24 VAC 30-120, pursuant to its general authority to “make regulations that are not in conflict with the laws of the Commonwealth for the protection of and covering traffic on and for the use of systems of state highways” under § 33.2-210 of the *Code of Virginia*.

More specifically, pursuant to § 33.2-1200 of the *Code of Virginia*, “[i]n order to promote the safety, convenience, and enjoyment of travel on and protection of the public investment in highways within the Commonwealth, attract tourists and promote the prosperity, economic well-being, and general welfare of the Commonwealth, and preserve and enhance the natural scenic beauty or aesthetic features of the highways and adjacent areas, the General Assembly declares it to be the policy of the Commonwealth that the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising in areas adjacent to the rights-of-way of the highways within the Commonwealth shall be regulated in accordance with the terms of this article [article 1 of Chapter 12 of Title 33.2] and regulations promulgated by the Board pursuant thereto.” Further, § 33.2-1220 of the *Code of Virginia* states that the CTB “may issue regulations and is authorized to enter into agreements with the United States as provided in 23 U.S.C. § 131 with respect to the regulation and control of signs, advertisements, and advertising structures in conformity with § 33.2-1217, provided that such agreements shall not prevent the General Assembly of Virginia from amending or repealing § 33.2-1217 at any time, and provided further that in the event the federal law is amended to lessen the special restrictions applicable to signs, advertisements, and advertising structures adjacent to Interstate System or federal-aid primary highways, the Board is authorized to adopt regulations to conform to such change in federal law and to amend any agreement with the United States relating to such control.”

Alternatives to Regulation

Describe any viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation that were considered as part of the periodic review. Include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and why this regulation is the least burdensome alternative available for achieving its purpose.

The regulation is necessary to enforce restrictions and requirements on outdoor advertising along or in sight of federal-aid highways in compliance with federal law. Without such regulation, the US Secretary of Transportation could, under federal law, withhold up to 10% of the federal-aid funds that the Commonwealth would otherwise be eligible to receive. The regulation is the least burdensome means for accomplishing its purpose.

Public Comment

Summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review, and provide the agency response. Be sure to include all comments submitted: including those received on Town Hall, in a public hearing, or submitted directly to the agency. Indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.

No comments were received from the public during the public comment period.

Commenter	Comment	Agency response

Effectiveness

Pursuant to § 2.2-4017 of the Code of Virginia, indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), including why the regulation is (a) necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and (b) is clearly written and easily understandable.

23 U.S.C. 131(a) states that “The Congress hereby finds and declares that the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices in areas adjacent to the Interstate System and the primary system should be controlled in order to protect the public investment in such highways, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and to preserve natural beauty.” The Rules and Regulations Controlling Outdoor Advertising and Directional and Other Signs and Notices are written to be consistent with and comply with the federal requirements, and are necessary for the protection of public health, safety and welfare. The regulation is clearly written and easily understandable.

Decision

Explain the basis for the promulgating agency’s decision (retain the regulation as is without making changes, amend the regulation, or repeal the regulation).

The regulation is necessary to comply with federal and state law, and protects the public investment in the Commonwealth’s highways, promotes the safety and recreational value of public travel, and preserves the natural beauty of the Commonwealth. Therefore, the CTB recommends retaining the regulation as is.

Small Business Impact

As required by § 2.2-4007.1 E and F of the Code of Virginia, discuss the agency’s consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation. Also, discuss why the agency’s decision, consistent with applicable law, will minimize the economic impact of regulations on small businesses.

The regulation is necessary to enforce restrictions and requirements on outdoor advertising along or in sight of federal-aid highways in compliance with federal law. The CTB has received no complaints concerning the regulation. The regulation is not complex, and is consistent with federal and state law. The regulation was last amended in 2004, and the most recent periodic review of the regulation was in 2001.
