

March 24, 2009

**S 830. ROADSIDE CAMPAIGN SIGNS.** Filed 3/24/09. *TO PERMIT CAMPAIGN SIGNS IN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY WITH REASONABLE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER RESTRICTIONS.*

Amends GS 136-32 to provide for the regulation of political signs (any sign that advocates for political action) on highways and to permit the Department of Transportation (DOT) or any person to remove signs that have been erected without authority or remaining beyond the deadline for removal specified in the act. During the period beginning 30 days before a primary or election day and ending 10 days after the primary or election day, a person may place a political sign in the right-of-way of the state highway system if the person: (1) obtains a permit from the State Board of Elections or the county board of elections, (2) places the signs in compliance with DOT rules, and (3) removes the signs by the 10th day after the primary or election day. Requires DOT to adopt rules for sign placement, including rules designating the portion of the state highway system right-of-way where signs are permitted, specifying the types of signs permitted, and requiring the permittee to seek the permission of any property owner of property fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Requires the State Board of Elections to adopt uniform rules for the issuance of permits and imposition of penalties for permit holders who fail to remove signs by the required date. Penalties must be enforced by the county board of elections in the county in which the violation occurred. Municipalities may elect to have provisions of the act apply to street rights-of-way within the municipality and maintained by the municipality.

Effective January 1, 2010.

**Intro. by Jacumin.**

GS 136