

House Bill No. 431

An act relating to tourist-oriented directional sign program; creating s. 479.262, F.S.; providing for the establishment of the program in rural areas; specifying criteria for the program; permitting establishment of fees to offset costs; providing that a directional sign site or location does not create a proprietary or compensable interest; providing termination of directional sign permits and change in location sites; providing for adoption of rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Creating section 479.262, Florida Statutes, to read:

479.262 Tourist-oriented directional sign program.—

(1) A tourist-oriented directional sign program to provide directions to rural tourist-oriented businesses, services, and activities may be established in rural counties identified by criteria and population in s. 288.0656 when approved and permitted by county or local government entities within their respective jurisdictional areas at intersections on rural and conventional state, county, or municipal roads. A county or local government which issues permits for a tourist-oriented directional sign program shall be responsible for sign construction, maintenance, and program operation in compliance with subsection (3) for roads on the state highway system and may establish permit fees sufficient to offset associated costs.

(2) This section does not create a proprietary or compensable interest in any tourist-oriented directional sign site or location for any permittee on any rural and conventional state, county, or municipal roads. The department or the permitting entity may terminate permits or change locations of tourist-oriented directional sign sites as determined necessary for construction or improvement of transportation facilities or for improved traffic control or safety.

(3) Tourist-oriented directional signs installed on the state highway system shall comply with the requirements of the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and rules established by the department. The department may adopt rules to establish requirements for participant qualification, construction standards, location of sign sites, and other criteria necessary to implement this program.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2007.