

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 485

(SENATE AUTHORS: MARTY, McEwen and Hawj)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/21/2025	143	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Transportation
04/03/2025	1342a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to State and Local Government

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A bill for an act

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relating to transportation and tourism; establishing statewide moratorium on new

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billboards; declaring existing billboards nonconforming uses; amending Minnesota

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Statutes 2024, section 462.357, subdivision 1c; proposing coding for new law in

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Minnesota Statutes, chapter 173.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

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The legislature recognizes Minnesota is a state that is known for its natural beauty and

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its economy benefits from tourism. Billboards significantly undermine that beauty and make

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the state less attractive to tourists. The legislature finds that Minnesota already has a large

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number of billboards, and it is in the public interest to establish a moratorium on new

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billboards in order to provide natural and economic benefits to the state.

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Sec. 2. [173.28] NEW BILLBOARDS PROHIBITED.

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Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "billboard" means an advertising

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device as defined in section 173.02, subdivision 16, except that it includes advertising

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devices visible to any person, whether they are in a motor vehicle or not, but does not include

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an advertising device that pertains to any business, product, person, activity, event, or service

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that is primarily conducted, sold, manufactured, offered, or located on premises where the

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sign is located.

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Subd. 2. **Ban on new billboards.** Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, after

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the effective date of this section, no state agency or political subdivision may issue a permit

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for or otherwise authorize a new billboard anywhere in the state. An ordinance, charter

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provision, or policy that conflicts with this section is void and not enforceable.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Existing billboards are nonconforming.** Existing billboards are nonconforming
2.2 uses subject to sections 394.36 and 462.357, subdivision 1e.

2.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.4 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 462.357, subdivision 1c, is amended to read:

2.5 Subd. 1c. **Amortization prohibited.** Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision,
2.6 a municipality must not enact, amend, or enforce an ordinance providing for the elimination
2.7 or termination of a use by amortization which use was lawful at the time of its inception.
2.8 This subdivision does not apply to billboards as defined in section 173.28, adults-only
2.9 bookstores, adults-only theaters, or similar adults-only businesses, as defined by ordinance.

2.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.