





>1965 – Congress Enacted the "Highway Beautification Act"

- Limit Spread of Billboards and Junkyards along the Interstates and Federal Primary Highway System (NHS)
- Each State Must Enforce
- Penalty of Losing 10% of Federal-aid Highway Funding



>1965 – Congress Enacted the "Highway Beautification Act."

>1967 – Arkansas General Assembly Enacted "Act 640"

 Highway Commission Must Establish and Enforce Billboard Regulations Consistent with Federal Requirements



- >1965 Congress Enacted the "Highway Beautification Act"
- >1967 Arkansas General Assembly Enacted "Act 640"
- 1972 State Permits Required for Billboards and Off-Premise Signs



Conforming Permits (Class A)

Commercial or Industrial Areas

> Non-Conforming Permits (Class B)

- NOT in Commercial or Industrial Areas
- "Grandfathered In"
- Disappear by Attrition
- Replacement signs could not be erected unless land developed.



>1975 – Law Changed

- Signs Beyond 660 feet
- State Scenic Byways



>Original Regulations - Vegetation Control Not Allowed



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>1995 – Sign Effectiveness Enhancement Policy (SEE)



Original Regulations - Vegetation Control Not Allowed

>1995 – An informal Sign Effectiveness Enhancement Policy (SEE) was put in place to allow limited vegetation control

>2000 – a more detailed policy was developed and called the Restore Sign Visibility Policy (RSVP)



- >2006 RSVP some changes were made with industry input
- 2010 Violation of RSVP Permit Requires Forfeit of Billboard Permit and Removal of Sign































2010 – Violation of RSVP Permit – Requires Forfeit of Billboard Permit and Removal of Sign

>2011 – RSVP Revisions Began



- 2010 Violation of RSVP Permit Requires Forfeit of Billboard Permit and Removal of Sign
- >2011 RSVP Revisions Began
- >2013 Public Hearing and Public Comment Period



Major Points of RSVP Permit

Creates a uniform permit system for vegetation control on the highway way right of way in front of off-site billboards

Allows mowing 500 feet on either side of the sign, for a total of 1000 feet of vegetation control

Provides an administrative hearing process to review permitting decisions.

Protects the right of way from clear cutting of trees over six (6) inches



BILLBOARD INDUSTRY CONCERNS

Opposes provision to deny RSVP applications if applicant has illegal/abandoned signs.

Opposes losing sign as penalty. Prefer \$1,000 fine. The Commission agreed to provide an administrative hearing, providing alternative remedies of a \$10,000 fine and/or the loss of the sign permit.

Opposes provision that requires written permission from adjacent landowner before mowing in front of their property.

➢Opposes the requirement that a Non-Conforming sign be removed to mow in front of another Non-Conforming sign.







