

2021 Kansas Statutes

68-2234. Highway advertising control; sign standards; zoning requirements. After March 31, 1972, and subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 68-2233, and amendments thereto, and to subsection (f), signs which are to be erected in a business area shall comply with the following standards: (a) General. Signs shall not be erected or maintained which:

(1) Imitate or resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device; or
(2) are erected or maintained upon trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.

(b) Configuration and size. (1) Signs shall not be erected with sign faces which exceed 30 feet in height, 60 feet in length or 900 square feet in area, per facing, including border, trim and embellishments, but not including base or apron, supports, and other structural members;

(2) the maximum size limitations shall apply to each sign facing;

(3) two sign displays not exceeding 450 square feet each may be erected in a facing, side by side or "double decked," and double-faced, back-to-back or V-type signs shall be permitted and shall be treated as one structure with a maximum area of 900 square feet permitted for each side or facing. To be classified as "back-to-back" there must not be more than 15 feet between structures or faces, to allow for crossbracing;

(4) the area of any sign structure shall be measured by the smallest square, rectangle, circle or combination thereof which will encompass the area of the sign display or displays;

(5) the height of any portion of the sign structure, excluding cutouts or extensions, as measured vertically from the adjacent edge of the road grade of the main traveled way shall not exceed 50 feet;

(6) cutouts or extensions shall be permitted on legal conforming signs at a size not to exceed 30% of the size of the main display area, with a maximum extension of five feet along the top edge, two feet along the sides and 11/2 feet along the bottom of the main display area. Cutouts or extensions shall not be permitted where the configuration and size requirements of this subsection will be exceeded.

(c) Spacing. (1) Signs shall conform to all applicable building codes and ordinances of the city, county or state, whichever is applicable by reason of the locations of the signs;

(2) signs shall not be erected or maintained in such a manner as to obscure or otherwise physically interfere with an official traffic sign, signal or device or to obstruct or physically interfere with a driver's view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic;

(3) except for official and on-premise signs, as defined in 23 U.S.C. § 131(c) and as provided for in K.S.A. 68-2233, and amendments thereto, any signs or sign structures visible from any primary highway without fully controlled access:

(A) Shall not be spaced less than 300 feet apart outside of incorporated cities;

(B) shall not be spaced less than 200 feet apart within incorporated cities;

(4) any signs or sign structures visible from any interstate highway or freeway with fully controlled access:

(A) Shall not be spaced less than 500 feet apart, except for official and on-premise signs, as defined in 23 U.S.C. § 131(c), and as provided in K.S.A. 68-2233, and amendments thereto;

(B) outside the corporate limits of cities, shall not be located within 500 feet of an interchange, feeder, intersection at grade, safety rest area or information center regardless of whether the main traveled way is within or outside the city limits. The 500 feet spacing shall be measured from the point at which the pavement widens and the direction of measurement shall be along the edge of pavement away from the interchange, collector, intersection at grade, safety rest area or information center. In those interchanges where a

quadrant does not have a ramp, the 500 feet for the quadrant at the edge of the intersection is located at the edge of the intersection;

(5) the minimum distance between two signs prescribed by paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs along the same side of the highway. Such minimum distance shall not apply to signs described by subsection (a), (b) or (c) of K.S.A. 68-2233, and amendments thereto, nor shall such signs be counted or be used in measuring distances for the purpose of determining compliance with the spacing requirements of this subsection;

(6) the minimum distances between two signs prescribed by paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection shall not apply where such signs are separated by a building, structure, roadway or other obstruction which prevents a view of both signs at the same time by traffic proceedings on any one highway; and

(7) nothing in this subsection shall be construed as preventing the erection of double-faced, back-to-back or V-type signs with a maximum of two sign displays per sign facing, as permitted by subsection (b). Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the owner of a single face sign to change the position of the sign face to a different or opposite direction of traffic flow so long as an additional face or additional square feet are not added to the sign structure. No such change may be affected until approval is granted by the department.

(d) Lighting. (1) Signs shall not be erected which contain, include or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, revolving or moving light, except those giving public service information such as, but not limited to, time, date, temperature, weather or news; steadily burning lights in configuration of letters or pictures are not prohibited;

(2) signs shall not be erected or maintained which are not effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled way of any interstate or primary highway and are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle or to otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle; and

(3) signs shall not be erected or maintained which are so illuminated that they obscure any official traffic sign, device or signal, or imitate or may be confused with any official traffic sign, device or signal.

(e) Automatic changeable facing signs. (1) Automatic changeable facing signs shall be permitted within adjacent or controlled areas under the following conditions:

(A) The sign does not contain or display flashing, intermittent or moving lights, including animated or scrolling advertising;

(B) the changeable facing remains in a fixed position for at least eight seconds;

(C) if a message is changed electronically, it must be accomplished within an interval of two seconds or less;

(D) the sign is not placed within 1,000 feet of another automatic changeable facing sign on the same side of the highway, with the distance being measured along the nearest edge of the pavement and between points directly opposite the signs along each side of the highway;

(E) if the sign is a legal conforming structure it may be modified to an automatic changeable facing sign upon compliance with these standards and approval by the department. A nonconforming structure shall not be modified to create an automatic changeable facing sign;

(F) if the sign contains a default design that will freeze the sign in one position if a malfunction occurs; and

(G) if the sign application meets all other permitting requirements.

(2) The outdoor advertising license shall be revoked for failure to comply with any provision in this subsection.

(f) Application to local zoning authorities. Nothing in article 22 of chapter 68 of Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, shall be construed as prohibiting a local zoning authority from controlling the erection, maintenance, size, spacing and lighting of signs in all areas within its jurisdiction by adopting standards which may be consistent with, or more or less restrictive than the highway advertising control act, and amendments thereto, except that along interstate highways, the size and spacing requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of K.S.A. 68-2234, and amendments thereto, shall be met. The standards adopted by a local zoning authority shall include the regulation of size, of lighting and of spacing of all such signs and shall restrict the erection of new signs, other than signs described by subsections (a), (b) and (c) of K.S.A. 68-2233, and amendments thereto, to zoned commercial or industrial areas.

(g) Prohibition against zoning to permit outdoor advertising. Zoning action which is not part of comprehensive zoning and is created primarily to permit outdoor advertising structures, is not recognized as zoning for purposes of this act.

(h) Unzoned commercial or industrial area qualifications for signs.

(1) To qualify an area as unzoned commercial or industrial for the purpose of outdoor advertising control, one commercial or industrial activity shall meet all of the following criteria prior to submitting an outdoor advertising permit application:

(A) The activity shall maintain all necessary business licenses as may be required by applicable state, county or local law or ordinances;

(B) the property used for the activity shall be listed for ad valorem taxes with the county and municipal taxing authorities as required by law;

(C) the activity shall be served by utilities, power, telephone, water and sewer or septic and well;

(D) the activity shall have direct or indirect vehicular access;

(E) the activity must be visible from, and located within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of the controlled route;

(F) the commercial or industrial activity must be in operation for a period of 12 months prior to the date of submitting an application for an outdoor advertising permit and license;

(G) the activity shall be in operation for at least nine months per year; and

(H) the owner or employee shall be present at the site for 20 hours per week;

(2) the unzoned area shall include areas on both sides of any two-lane highway, but shall be limited to land on the same side as the commercial or industrial activity on any highway with four or more traffic lanes. All measurements shall begin from the outer edges of regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing areas of the commercial or industrial activity, not from the property line of the activity and shall be along the nearest edge of the main traveled way of the controlled route. The proposed sign location must be within 600 feet of the commercial or industrial activity.

History: L. 1972, ch. 251, § 4; L. 1973, ch. 272, § 2; L. 1981, ch. 266, § 1; L. 2006, ch. 141, § 3; July 1.