

---

(a) The department may authorize a political subdivision to exercise control over outdoor signs in its jurisdiction. If the political subdivision receives approval under this section, it will be listed as a certified city and a permit issued by that political subdivision is acceptable instead of a permit issued by the department within the approved area.

(b) To be considered for authorization under this section, the political subdivision must submit to the department:

(1) a copy of its sign regulations;

(2) a copy of its zoning regulations;

(3) information about the number of personnel who will be dedicated to the program and what type of records will be maintained, including whether the political subdivision maintains an inventory of signs that can be provided to the department in an electronic format that is acceptable to the department; and

(4) an enforcement plan that includes the removal of illegal signs.

(c) The department, after consulting with the Federal Highway Administration, shall determine whether a political subdivision has established and will enforce within its corporate limits standards and criteria for size, lighting, and spacing of outdoor signs consistent with the purposes of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, 23 United States Code §131, and with customary use. The size, lighting, and spacing requirements of the political subdivision may be more or less restrictive than the requirements of this division as long as the requirements comply with the federal requirements, such as the prohibition of signs over 1,200 square feet in size and spacing of less than 500 feet. The authorization does not include the area in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

(d) The department may meet with a political subdivision to ensure that it is enforcing the standards and criteria in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(e) After approval under this section, the political subdivision shall:

(1) provide to the department:

(A) a copy of each amendment to its sign and zoning regulations when the amendment is proposed and adopted; and

(B) a copy of any change to its corporate limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction, if covered by the approval;

(2) annually provide to the department:

(A) an electronic copy of the sign inventory; and

(B) report of the number of sign permits issued and the status of all pending enforcement actions; and

(3) participate in at least one video conference or teleconference sponsored by the department each year.

(f) The political subdivision may:

(1) set and retain the fees for issuing a sign permit; and

(2) establish the period for which a sign permit is effective.

(g) The department will conduct an on-site compliance monitoring review every two years.

(h) The department may withdraw the approval of a political subdivision given under this section if the department determines that the political subdivision does not have an effective sign control program. The department will consider whether:

(1) the standards and criteria of political subdivision's sign regulations continue to meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this section;

(2) the political subdivision maintains an accurate sign inventory and annually provides the inventory to the department in an electronic format; and

(3) the political subdivision enforces the sign regulations and annually reports enforcement actions as required.

(i) The department may reinstate a political subdivision's authority on the showing of a new plan that meets the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.