

The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to SB 383:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to the regulation of signs and signals within the state highway system,
3 so as to remove the requirement of a five-year waiting period prior to application of a tree
4 trimming permit; to allow agritourism facilities to obtain tree trimming permits for
5 advertising signs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to the regulation of signs and signals within the state highway system, is amended
11 in Code Section 32-6-75.3, relating to application for tree trimming permits and annual
12 renewal, forms, fees, evaluation, and criteria for trimming trees and vegetation, by revising
13 subsection (b) as follows:

14 ~~"(b)(1)~~ So as to promote these objectives and in accordance with the provisions of this
15 Code section, the commissioner shall provide by rule or regulation for the issuance and
16 annual renewal of permits for the trimming and removal of trees and other vegetation on
17 the state rights of way within viewing zones with respect to outdoor advertising signs
18 legally erected and legally maintained adjacent to said rights of way. Such rules and
19 regulations shall include, without limitation, standards for survival of vegetation trimmed
20 or planted.

21 ~~(2) So as to ensure that no vegetation maintenance permits are issued for the purpose of~~
22 ~~creating new outdoor advertising signs, no owner of outdoor advertising signs permitted~~
23 ~~or assigned a working number by the department after December 31, 2010, or such~~
24 ~~owner's agent, shall be eligible to make application for vegetation maintenance for a~~
25 ~~period of five years from the date a new sign is permitted."~~

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Said part is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

28 "32-6-75.4.

29 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'agritourism facility' means any operation
30 charging admission for persons to visit, view, or participate in the operation of a farm or
31 dairy farm or production of farm or dairy products for entertainment or educational
32 purposes or any operation selling farm or dairy products to persons who visit such
33 operation.

34 (b) An agritourism facility may apply for and obtain a permit pursuant to Code Section
35 32-6-75.3 for a lawfully erected outdoor advertising sign promoting such facility, so long
36 as such sign comports with local ordinances."

37 **SECTION 3.**

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.