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Senate Bill 879 (As Introduced)

Topic: Sexually Explicit Signs
Sponsor: Senator Hunter
Co-sponsors: None
Committee: Senate Transportation

Date Introduced: September 29, 2009

Date of Summary: October 7, 2009

The bill prohibits the erection, construction, or maintenance of a sexually explicit sign on the premises of a sexually oriented business that advertises or identifies the business and is visible outdoors. Signs for such businesses may display only words or numbers, or both. The bill prohibits the use of certain types of words. A trademark may be displayed on the sign if registered under the Lanham Act. If there is a conflict between the prohibitions in the bill and a local zoning ordinance or the Highway Advertising Act of 1972, the more restrictive provision applies. A sign violating the prohibitions in this bill is declared to be a nuisance and an action may be brought to abate it. Violation would subject a person to a civil fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$10,000 for each day of violation. Fines collected under the bill would be distributed to public libraries as provided in Public Act 59 of 1964.

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