

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Amortization of nonconforming billboards permitted

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This bill would allow a city or town to use amortization to eliminate nonconforming billboards (that are not adjacent to interstates or trunk highways). This exception would be in addition to the exceptions in current law for adult-only businesses, as defined by ordinance.

Amortization of a land use means that the local zoning ordinance sets a time limit in which the preexisting lawful but nonconforming use must cease. In 1999, the legislature enacted the law prohibiting the use of amortization to eliminate nonconforming uses.

(Under federal law, and Minn. Stat. ch. 173, amortization cannot be used to eliminate billboards adjacent to the right of way of an interstate or trunk highway. 23 U.S.C. § 131 (g)).