Overview

This bill deals with agreements between the department of transportation and billboard owners to control vegetation on highway right-of-way that may interfere with billboard's visibility. It allows nearby landowners and local governments to object to such agreements. It allows revocation of a billboard permit if billboard owner has been convicted of illegally removing vegetation. The bill also expands the department's authority to reject local zoning ordinances that regulate billboards.

1 **Revocation of outdoor advertising permits.** Allows the commissioner of transportation to revoke a billboard permit after receiving notice that the permit holder has been convicted of illegally removing vegetation from right-of-way on which the billboard is located.

2 **Local zoning ordinances.** Repeals the provision that prohibits the commissioner of transportation from refusing to recognize a local zoning ordinance that allows billboards in business areas unless the local zoning ordinance would result in a loss of federal funds. This change has the effect of widening the department's discretion to reject local ordinances that provide for billboard control.

3 **Vegetation control agreements.** Requires the commissioner of transportation, before entering into an agreement with billboard owners that allows control of vegetation on a highway right-of-way near the billboard, to determine if owners of nearby property and local government object to the agreement. Requires the commissioner to consider objections from nearby landowners and local government in determining whether to enter into the agreement.