

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 938

Representatives Hiner, Fischer

To enact section 9.031 of the Revised Code to enact 1
the No Free Advertising for Politicians Act to 2
prohibit certain government signs from including 3
a public official's personal name or likeness. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 9.031 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 9.031. (A) As used in this section: 7

(1) "Public official" means a person who is elected or 8
appointed to an office of the state or a political subdivision. 9

(2) "Transaction" has the same meaning as in section 10
1315.51 of the Revised Code. 11

(B) No person shall knowingly conduct a direct or indirect 12
transaction of public funds to display any of the following that 13
includes the personal name or likeness of a current public 14
official: 15

(1) A road sign, billboard, or other outdoor marker; 16

(2) A sign, sticker, or decal on the exterior of a 17
building, an outdoor fixture, or the exterior of a vehicle. 18

(C) This section does not apply to any item described in 19
division (B) (1) or (2) of this section to which either of the 20
following apply: 21

(1) It includes only the title or position of a public 22
official and not the public official's personal name or 23
likeness. 24

(2) It is specifically authorized by law to include a 25
public official's personal name or likeness. 26

(D) Whoever violates division (B) of this section shall be 27
punished as provided in section 3599.40 of the Revised Code. 28

Section 2. (A) Except as otherwise provided in division 29
(B) of this section, as soon as practicable after the effective 30
date of this section, the public office or agency having 31
authority over any existing item described in division (B) (1) or 32
(2) of section 9.031 of the Revised Code, as enacted by this 33
act, that, if placed on or after the effective date of this 34
section, would violate that section, shall remove or modify the 35
item so that it complies with the requirements of that section. 36

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to any 37
legally required approval or security seal that was placed on an 38
outdoor fixture before the effective date of this section. When 39
the seal expires, section 9.031 of the Revised Code, as enacted 40
by this act, applies to the seal that replaces it. 41

Section 3. This act shall be known as the No Free 42
Advertising for Politicians Act. 43