

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 868

INTRODUCER: Senator Boyd

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway

DATE: January 29, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Johnson	Vickers	TR	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	ATD	_____
3.	_____	_____	FP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 868 designates that portion of U.S. 19 between Palm View Road and Terra Ceia Road in Manatee County as “Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

The estimated cost to FDOT to install the designation markers required under the bill is \$1,800. See the “Fiscal Impact Statement” below for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such designations are not to be construed as requiring any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes.¹

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, FDOT is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.²

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before the installation of the markers.³

Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto

Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto graduated from Manatee High School in 2017 and joined the US Army in January 2018, as an Infantryman. Nicholas was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and received the Expert Marksmanship Badge.⁴ He was killed on November 6, 2019, when, in a training accident, his Bradley fighting vehicle rolled over.⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law designating that portion of U.S. 19 between Palm View Road and Terra Ceia Road in Manatee County as Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway and directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

⁴ Nicholas C. Panipinto Obituary, <https://www.brownandsonsfuneral.com/obituary/nicholas-panipinto> (last visited January 25, 2024).

⁵ My Fallen Soldiers, *Panipinto Nicholas*, <https://myfallensoldiers.com/2019/11/06/panipinto-nicholasarmy-specialist/>, (last visited January 25, 2024).

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The estimated cost to erect the designation markers required under this bill is \$1,800, based on the assumption that a minimum of two markers are required at a cost to FDOT of no less than \$900 each. The estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. FDOT is expected to absorb the estimated cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill contains an undesignated section of Florida statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.