

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

HB 791 does not implicate any House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Section 334.071, F.S., provides for legislative designations of transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility. The legislative designations do not “officially” change the current names of the facilities, nor does the statute require local governments and private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone-number system listings.

The statute requires FDOT to place a marker at each terminus or intersection of an identified road or bridge, and to erect other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility. The statute also provides that a city or county must pass a resolution in support of a particular designation before road markers are erected. Additionally, if the designated road segment extends through multiple cities or counties, a resolution must be passed by each affected local government.

Based on FDOT records, some 1,079 honorary road and bridge designations have been approved since 1922, most of them by the Legislature. Some public roads and bridges have multiple or overlapping designations.

Effect of HB 791

The bill proposes six honorary road designations. They are:

- A portion of Main Street between West 6th Street and West 8th Street in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Eddie Mae Steward Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 37th Street and West 46th Street in Duval County is designated as “Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 8th Street and West 18th Street in Duval County is designated as “Mrs. Flossie Brunson Avenue.”
- A portion of U.S. Highway 1 between Finch Avenue and Trout River Boulevard in Duval County is designated as “Dr. Robert L. Brown, Sr., Highway.”
- A portion of Lem Turner Road between Interstate 95 and Edgewood Avenue in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Barbara Van Blake Parkway.”
- A portion of Florida First Coast Highway beginning at Burney Road and continuing north through the 5500 block of Florida First Coast Highway in Duval County¹ is designated as “Ms. MaVynee ‘The Beach Lady’ Betsch Highway.”

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is directed to erect suitable markers to denote the honorary designations.

The Duval County designations will be to honor Ms. Eddie Mae Steward, one of Jacksonville’s leading advocates for civil and human rights; Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones, a reverend in the City of Jacksonville whose outreach and ministries comfort and spiritually console families and individuals throughout the community; Mrs. Flossie Brunson, who nearly single-handedly organized her community to turn a once blighted neighborhood into one that blossoms anew with energies and hope for its young people, young families and seniors; Dr. Robert L. Brown, Sr., a doctor in the City of Jacksonville who was a change

¹ This segment of highway is actually located in Nassau County, see Drafting Issues or Other Comments section of this analysis.

agent for economic development efforts; and Ms. Barbara Van Blake, who taught mathematics in Florida for 12 years and was also an active supporter of civil rights and labor union organizing.

The Nassau County designation will honor Ms. MaVynee ‘The Beach Lady’ Betsch, the official historian and matriarch of American Beach.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Sections 1: Designates six honorary roads in Duval County

A portion of Main Street between West 6th Street and West 8th Street in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Eddie Mae Steward Avenue.”

Section 2: A portion of Main Street between West 37th Street and West 46th Street in Duval County is designated as “Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones Avenue.”

Section 3: A portion of Main Street between West 8th Street and West 18th Street in Duval County is designated as “Mrs. Flossie Brunson Avenue.”

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Section 5: A portion of Lem Turner Road between Interstate 95 and Edgewood Avenue in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Barbara Van Blake Parkway.”

Section 6: A portion of Florida First Coast Highway beginning at Burney Road and continuing north through the 5500 block of Florida First Coast Highway in Duval County is designated as “Ms. MaVynee ‘The Beach Lady’ Betsch Highway.”

Section 7: Specifies an effective date of July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

FDOT estimates that the cost to erect suitable road markers is approximately \$800 per designation, for a marker at each end of the designated road area. The total signage cost of HB 791 is \$4,800.

The expenditure is from the State Transportation Trust Fund. FDOT also is responsible for any future maintenance and replacement cost, which is indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

FDOT has sufficient rulemaking authority to implement this bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The portion of Florida First Coast Highway to be designated as "Ms. MaVynee 'The Beach Lady' Betsch Highway", is actually located in Nassau County. The sponsor has indicated that he will offer an amendment to correct this drafting error.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES