

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 791 CS                      Road Designations  
**SPONSOR(S):** Fields  
**TIED BILLS:**                                 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1738

---

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Transportation Committee	16 Y, 0 N, w/CS	Rousseau	Miller
2) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee			
3) State Infrastructure Council			
4) _____			
5) _____			

---

**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

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.

HB 791 designates six honorary roads. They are:

- A portion of Main Street between West 6<sup>th</sup> Street and West 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Eddie Mae Steward Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 37<sup>th</sup> Street and West 46<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as “Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and West 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Nassau County is designated as “Ms. MaVynee ‘The Beach Lady’ Betsch Highway.”
- A portion of State Road 188 between State Road 189 and State Road 85 in Okaloosa County is designated as “Brian D. Little Road.”

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is directed to erect suitable markers to denote the honorary designations. The markers will cost an estimated \$5,600. This does not include maintenance or replacement costs.

HB 791 does not create any constitutional or other legal issues. It takes effect July 1, 2006.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street and West 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as “Ms. Eddie Mae Steward Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 37<sup>th</sup> Street and West 46<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as “Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones Avenue.”
- A portion of Main Street between West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and West 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Nassau County<sup>1</sup> is designated as “Ms. MaVynee ‘The Beach Lady’ Betsch Highway.”
- A portion of State Road 188 between State Road 189 and State Road 85 in Okaloosa County is designated as “Brian D. Little Road.”

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

---

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

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 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.

The Okaloosa County designation will honor Brian D. Little, who served as District Roadway Design Engineer for the Department of Transportation's District 3.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Sections 1: Designates six honorary roads in Duval County

A portion of Main Street between West 6<sup>th</sup> Street and West 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as "Ms. Eddie Mae Steward Avenue."

Section 2: A portion of Main Street between West 37<sup>th</sup> Street and West 46<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as "Dr. Mary L. Austin Jones Avenue."

Section 3: A portion of Main Street between West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and West 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Duval County is designated as "Mrs. Flossie Brunson Avenue."

Section 4: 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."

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: A portion of State Road 188 between State Road 189 and State Road 85 in Okaloosa County is designated as "Brian D. Little Road."

Section 8: 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 \$5,600. 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:**

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**

On March 7, 2006, this bill was considered by the Transportation Committee. Two amendments were adopted, one was a technical amendment and the other added the designation of "Brian D. Little Road" in Okaloosa County. The bill was reported favorable with a committee substitute.