

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 Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

BILL: CS/SB 782

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Fallen Officers Memorial/Road Designations

DATE: March 16, 2011 **REVISED:** _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Sookhoo | Spalla | TR | Fav/CS |
| 2. | Carey | Meyer, R. | BTA | Pre-meeting |
| 3. | | | BC | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS..... Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

I. Summary:

Section 334.071, F.S., specifies the purpose and effect of the designation of roads, bridges, and other transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes by the Florida Legislature. These designations are for honorary purposes only, and do not require changing of street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 listings. The bill designates the following road as follows:

- State Road 687 in Pinellas County from I-275 to I-175 as “Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway.”
- State Road 583/North 50th Street in Hillsborough County from Melbourne Blvd/East 21st Avenue to State Road 574/Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd as “Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway.”

This bill creates an undesignated section of law.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides: (1) Legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility, and may not be construed to require 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; (2) When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (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; and (3) The 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, resolutions supporting the designations must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of markers.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The effects of the bill are as follows:

Section 1: The bill designates State Road 687 in Pinellas County from I-275 to I-175 as “Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway”. Also this bill directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

Sgt. Thomas J. Baitlinger served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for over 15. He voluntarily served as a mentor for students at Gibbs High School, and Sgt. Baitlinger also volunteered for other various committees including the police pension board.

Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for over 11 years. Officer Yaslowitz proved to be an invaluable asset to the department by exemplifying characteristics of public service. He is remembered by his colleagues for his bravery and drive for excellence during his years of service.

Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger and Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz died in the line of duty on January 24, 2011, while responding to a call for back up. Sgt. Baitinger is survived by his wife, Paige, and Officer Yaslowitz is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and three children.

Officer David S. Crawford served as a law enforcement officer at the St. Petersburg Police Department for 25 years. He gained notoriety for his domestic violence victim advocacy, and he often spoke at schools to educate young people about issues surrounding domestic violence. On February 21, 2011, Officer David S. Crawford was shot multiple times while responding to a report of a suspicious person. Officer David S. Crawford is survived by his wife, Donna, and daughter.

Section 2: The bill designates State Road 583/North 50th Street in Hillsborough County from Melbourne Blvd/East 21st Avenue to State Road 574/Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd is designated as “Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway”.

Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab joined the Plant City Police Department in 2005, and later joined the Tampa Police Department in 2009. During his years as a police officer, Officer Kocab was decorated with multiple awards as employee of the month and Officer of Year in 2007 and 2009.

Officer David L. Curtis served in the Tampa Police Department for over 3 years. In 2007, Officer Curtis was named Officer of the Month for his dedication involving a child neglect case.

Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis were killed while attempting to make an arrest at a traffic stop. Officer Kocab is survived by his wife, Sara. Officer Curtis is survived by his wife, Kelly, and four sons.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The FDOT will incur costs of approximately \$1,600 (from the State Transportation Trust Fund) for erecting markers for the designations. This is based on the assumption that four markers will be erected at a cost of \$400 per marker. The FDOT will also have to pay the recurring cost of maintaining these signs over time, and for future replacement of the signs as necessary.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Transportation Committee on February 22, 2011:

The committee substitute incorporates the Officer Jeffrey A. Kocab and Officer David L. Curtis Memorial Highway, and adds Officer David S. Crawford to the Sgt. Thomas J. Baitinger, Officer Jeffrey A. Yaslowitz, and Officer David S. Crawford Memorial Highway.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.