

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

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BILL: SB 64

INTRODUCER: Senators Gibson and Bean

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway

DATE: March 13, 2019

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

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	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Price</u>	<u>Miller</u>	<u>IS</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>McAuliffe</u>	<u>Hrdlicka</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<b>Recommend: Favorable</b>
3.	<u>McAuliffe</u>	<u>Kynoch</u>	<u>AP</u>	<b>Pre-meeting</b>

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**I. Summary:**

SB 64 designates the portion of I-295/E. Beltway 295 between Alta Drive and Pulaski Road in Duval County as “Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

The estimated cost to the FDOT to install the designation markers is insignificant.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

**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.<sup>1</sup>

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Section 334.071(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 334.071(2), F.S.

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 installation of the markers.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Officer Lance Christian Whitaker<sup>4</sup>**

Officer Lance Christian Whitaker was born on February 4, 1970, in High Point, North Carolina, and moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1982. Officer Whitaker attended DuPont Middle School, graduated from Wolfson High School in 1988, and was a member of the wrestling and football teams. He later graduated with a degree in Business from Gardner Webb College, where he was a member of the Division 2 Bulldog Football Team.

Officer Whitaker began his law enforcement career with the Atlantic Beach Police Department, followed by 17 years with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. On May 15, 2018, Officer Whitaker was on duty responding to help others when an accident ended his watch.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill designates the portion of I-295/E. Beltway 295 between Alta Drive and Pulaski Road in Duval County as "Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway" and directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers for the described designation.

The bill is effective on July 1, 2019.

### **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.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 334.071(3), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Dignity Memorial, Obituary, *Officer Lance Christian Whitaker*, available at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-fl/lance-whitaker-7853918> (last visited February 25, 2019).

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

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Existing resources can be used for the estimated cost to erect the designation markers required under this bill. The estimated cost is \$1,000, based on the assumption that two markers are required at a cost to the FDOT of no less than \$500 each.<sup>5</sup> The estimate includes sign fabrication, installation, and maintenance over time but does not include any additional expenses related to maintenance of traffic, dedication event costs, or replacement necessitated by damage, vandalism, or storm events.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Law.

**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.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>5</sup> E-mail from Jay Ferrin, Legislative Affairs Director, FDOT, February 26, 2019 (on file with the Senate Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee).