

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 Infrastructure and Security

BILL: SB 78

INTRODUCER: Senator Broxson

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/General Daniel ‘Chappie’ James, Jr.

DATE: February 7, 2020

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Miller	IS	Pre-meeting
2.			ATD	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 78 designates the Pensacola Bay Bridge between 17th Avenue in Escambia County and Baybridge Drive in Santa Rosa County as the “General Daniel ‘Chappie’ James, Jr., Bridge” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

The estimated cost to the FDOT to install the designation markers required under this bill is \$1,000. See Section V, “Fiscal Impact Statement,” for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.

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, 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.²

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

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² 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.³

General Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr.

General Daniel ‘Chappie’ James, Jr., was born in 1920 in Pensacola, Florida, near the Pensacola Naval Air Station, where he developed the desire to fly. He attended the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1937, making a name for himself as an athlete and campus leader. In July of 1943, he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant and became one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor in 1949 for his rescue of a fellow pilot after experiencing a flame-out 50 feet above the ground and crashing. He flew 101 combat missions during the Korean War. Rising rapidly in rank, he attained Major in 1952 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1956.

In June of 1967, Colonel James became Vice Wing Commander of the Eighth Tactical Fighter Wing in Thailand, flying 78 combat missions over North Vietnam; and in 1969, he assumed command of Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya, following Muammar Khadafy’s coup. President Nixon nominated him for Brigadier General in 1970. He then served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, and later as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, in 1973.

In August of 1975, he was assigned as Commander in Chief, North American Air Defense Command, at which time he was promoted to the rank of Four-Star General. Aside from his aerial skills, General James was recognized for his ethics of achievement, hard work, and self-reliance. General James passed away on February 25th, 1978.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill designates the Pensacola Bay Bridge (bridge numbers 480-289 and 480-290) on U.S. 98/S.R. 30 over the Pensacola Bay between 17th Avenue in Escambia County and Baybridge Drive in Santa Rosa County as the “General Daniel ‘Chappie’ James, Jr., Bridge” and directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers for the described designation.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

⁴ See the National Aviation Hall of Fame website available at <https://www.nationalaviation.org/our-enshrinees/james-jr-daniel/> (last visited August 22, 2019).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

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 \$1,000, based on the assumption that two markers are required at a cost to the FDOT of no less than \$500 each. 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.

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