

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1469 Transportation Facility Designations

SPONSOR(S): Grieco and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1682

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 117 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1469 passed the House on March 2, 2022, as amended, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 4, 2022.

Under current law, the Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge, interchange, or portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not change the official names of the facilities. The Department of Transportation (DOT) erects markers for each designation, but may not do so until the appropriate city or county commission passes a resolution in support of the designation.

The bill honors the 98 people who died in the Champlain Towers South collapse in Surfside, Florida, by designating "98 Points of Light Way" in Miami-Dade County.

The bill will have an insignificant negative fiscal impact to the State Transportation Trust Fund associated with erecting suitable markers for the designation. The cost can be absorbed within DOT's existing resources.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 24, 2022, ch. 2022-225, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2022.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

Transportation Facility Designations

Under current law, the Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge, interchange, or portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not change the official names of the designated facilities, and do not require local governments or private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone-number system listings to account for the designations.¹

Current law sets standards for the naming of state buildings and other facilities. The law provides that except as specifically provided by law, state buildings, roads, bridges, parks, recreational complexes, and other similar facilities may not be named for a living person.²

Road Markers

The Department of Transportation (DOT) must place a marker at each terminus or intersection of a designated road, bridge, or other transportation facility and erect other markers it deems appropriate for the facility.³ Road markers may not be erected until the appropriate city or county commission passes a resolution in support of a particular designation. Additionally, if a designated facility extends through multiple cities or counties, a resolution must be passed by each affected local government before the road markers can be erected by DOT.⁴

Champlain Towers South

In the early morning hours of June 24, 2021, a portion of Champlain Towers South collapsed. The condominium building located in Surfside, Florida, had 136 units, of which 55 were destroyed during the collapse. At the time, many of the building's units were occupied by residents who were asleep in their beds.⁵ After the collapse, rescue crews spent 29 days searching for victims in the rubble.⁶ The final victim was identified on July 26, 2021, which brought the death toll to 98.^{7,8}

¹ S. 334.071(1), F.S.

² S. 267.062(1), F.S.

³ S. 334.071(2), F.S.

⁴ S. 334.071(3), F.S.

⁵ Gina Harkins, *What you need to know about the Florida condo collapse as the search for survivors continues and probe begins*, The Washington Post (July 10, 2021), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/06/25/florida-condo-collapse-what-you-should-know/> (last visited Mar. 10, 2022).

⁶ Xander Landen, *Surfside Rescue Crews Saluted as Mission Ends 29 Days After Condo Collapse*, Newsweek (Jul. 23, 2021), <https://www.newsweek.com/surfside-rescue-crews-saluted-mission-ends-29-days-after-condo-collapse-1612697> (last visited Mar. 10, 2022).

⁷ *Remembering those who died in the Champlain Towers condo collapse in Surfside, Florida*, The Palm Beach Post (Aug. 11, 2021), <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/in-depth/news/2021/06/28/surfside-miami-florida-building-collapse-victims-who-died-obituaries/5365626001/> (last visited Mar. 10, 2022).

⁸ See also Connie Ogle, *Remembering the victims of the Surfside tower collapse*, Miami Herald (Dec. 20, 2021), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/miami-beach/article253088463.html> (last visited Mar. 10, 2022) (provides information about the people who died in the Champlain Towers South collapse).

Effect of the Bill

That portion of S.R. A1A/Collins Avenue between 87th Terrace and 88th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “98 Points of Light Way.” The bill requires DOT to erect suitable markers.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOT estimates a cost of \$1,040 for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$520 per sign.⁹ Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$1,040 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing DOT resources.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

⁹ Email from Amanda Marsh, Legislative Analyst, Florida Department of Transportation, FDOT Memorial Roadway Designation Sign Estimate, (Sep. 15, 2021).