

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 389 Transportation Facility Designations

SPONSOR(S): Infrastructure Strategies Committee and Transportation & Modals Subcommittee, Roach and others

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: CS/CS/CS/SB 868

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 115 Y's

0 N's

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 389 passed the House on February 28, 2024, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 1, 2024.

State law authorizes legislative designations of transportation facilities, such as bridges, interchanges, or portions of roads, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not change the official names of the facilities and do not require local governments and private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings to account for the designations. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) may not erect markers for each designation unless the appropriate city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. Additionally, if the designated facility is located in multiple cities or counties, each affected local government must pass a resolution in support of the designation before FDOT can install the markers.

The bill creates 17 designations for various transportation facilities across the state and directs FDOT to erect suitable markers for each designation.

The bill will have an insignificant negative fiscal impact to the State Transportation Trust Fund associated with erecting suitable markers for the designations. The cost can be absorbed within FDOT's existing resources. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 27, 2024, ch. 2024-278, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

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, an interchange, or a portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not officially change the existing names of the 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

Regarding the naming of state buildings and other facilities, state 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

Transportation Facility Markers

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place a marker at each terminus or intersection of the highway segment or bridge designated and may erect other markers it deems appropriate for the designated transportation facility.³ Markers may not be erected until the appropriate city or county commission passes a resolution in support of the particular designation. Additionally, if the designated facility is located in multiple cities or counties, each affected local government must pass a resolution in support of the designation before FDOT can install the markers.⁴

Effect of the Bill

The bill requires FDOT to erect suitable markers for each of the following designations:

Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor

The bill designates that portion of I-75 between U.S. 17/Duncan Road and Harbor View Road in Charlotte County as “Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway.”

On November 22, 2022, 23-year-old Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor was struck by a drunk driver while conducting a traffic stop on I-75 near mile marker 163 in Punta Gorda. Deputy Sheriff Taylor served with the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office for 15 months.⁵

Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto

The bill designates that portion of U.S. 19 between Palm View Road and Terra Ceia Road in Manatee County as “Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway.”

On November 6, 2019, United States Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto died during training in Seoul, South Korea.⁶ Panipinto was assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.⁷

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 Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/26469-deputy-sheriff-christopher-taylor> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

⁶ My Fallen Soldiers, *Panipinto, Nicholas*, <https://myfallensoldiers.com/2019/11/06/panipinto-nicholasarmy-specialist/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

⁷ Brown and Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, *Nicholas C. Panipinto Obituary*, <https://www.brownsfuneral.com/obituary/nicholas-panipinto> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

Dylan Roberts

The bill designates the mid-block crossing and pedestrian hybrid beacon on that portion of E. University Avenue/S.R. 26 between N.E. 26th Terrace and S.E. 26th Terrace in Alachua County as “Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk”.

On October 27, 2021, four-year-old Dylan Roberts was struck by a car while he was crossing University Avenue to return home from Fred Cone Park. To honor his memory, a crosswalk was installed across East University Avenue between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th Terrace in Alachua County.⁸

AWF3 Mohammed “Mo” Haitham

The bill designates those portions of the Gandy Bridge on U.S. 92 located within the geographical boundaries of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties as “AWF3 Mohammed 'Mo' Haitham Memorial Way.”

On December 6, 2019, AWF3 Mohammed “Mo” Haitham was the victim of an active shooter at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. AWF3 Haitham has been described as a hero for his actions in connection with the incident. AWF3 Haitham was scheduled to complete his flight crew training the same month that he passed away.⁹

Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 434 between S.R. 400 and Ronald Reagan Boulevard in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway.”

Deputy Sheriff Pfeil was a retired New York City police officer who served as a reserve deputy sheriff after moving to Florida. On December 29, 1977, Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil was shot and killed when he interrupted an armed robbery at a local pharmacy.¹⁰

Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore

The bill designates that portion of U.S. 17-92 between 1st Street and 25th Street in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway.”

Deputy Sheriff Moore served with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for eight months. On June 9, 1975, Deputy Sheriff Moore died of smoke inhalation while rescuing inmates during a fire at the Seminole County Jail.¹¹

Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs

The bill designates that portion of C.R. 419 between Snow Hill Road and the Orange County line in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway.”

⁸ Seth Johnson, *Gainesville Commission honors Chief Jones, remembers Dylan Roberts*, Mainstreet Daily News (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/govt-politics/gainesville-commission-honors-tony-jones-remembers-dylan-roberts> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

⁹ The United States Navy Memorial, *Mohammed Sameh “Mo” Haitham*, <https://navylog.navy memorial.org/haitham-mohammed> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁰ Officer Down Memorial, *Reserve Deputy George A. Pfeil*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/10610-reserve-deputy-george-a-pfeil> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹¹ Officer Down Memorial, *Deputy Sheriff Robert O. Moore, Jr.*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/9570-deputy-sheriff-robert-o-moore-jr> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs served with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for two years. On September 14, 1922, Deputy Sheriff Jacobs was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man for theft.¹²

Abe Resnick

The bill designates that portion of Bay Avenue between W. 25th Street and W. 27th Street in Sunset Islands in Miami-Dade County as "Abe Resnick Drive."

Abe Resnick, a Holocaust survivor, lived in Miami-Dade County from 1960 until his death on September 3, 1998. Abe Resnick was the first Hispanic Commissioner of the City of Miami Beach, serving four terms from 1985 to 1993, and also served as vice mayor.¹³

Pastor Rick Blackwood

The bill designates that portion of S.W. 168th Street between U.S. 1 and S.W. 89th Avenue in Miami-Dade County as "Pastor Rick Blackwood Street."

Reverend Dr. Rick Blackwood passed away on August 4, 2023. He served as lead pastor of Christ Fellowship Church in South Florida for 23 years.¹⁴

Gus Kopelousos

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 16 between C.R. 225 and Rifle Range Road in Clay County as "Gus Kopelousos Memorial Highway."

Constantinos "Gus" Kopelousos of Starke, Florida, passed away on May 22, 2023, at the age of 85.¹⁵ Mr. Kopelousos, raised by Greek immigrant parents, graduated from the University of Tampa and subsequently took over the family business, the Garden Restaurant.¹⁶

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 997/Krome Avenue/ W. 177th Avenue between S.W. 8th Street and the entrance to the Miccosukee Casino & Resort in Miami-Dade County as "MICCO WAY."

The Miccosukee Indians were originally part of the Creek Nation, and then migrated to Florida before it became part of the United States. On January 11, 1962, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved the Miccosukee Constitution and the Tribe was officially recognized as the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.¹⁷

The Miccosukee have over 600 tribal members and three reservation areas in Florida, including the Tamiami Trail Reservation area. The Miccosukee have made significant social, political, and economic contributions to Miami-Dade County.¹⁸

¹² Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/7012-deputy-sheriff-james-cleveland-jacobs> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹³ City of Miami-Dade, *Miami-Dade Legislative Item, File Number 990435*, <https://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=990425&file=false&yearFolder=Y1999> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁴ Miami Herald, *Rev. Dr. Rick Blackwood*, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/herald/name/rick-blackwood-obituary?id=52928579>, (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁵ Echovita, *Constantinos "Gus" Kopelousos*, <https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/fl/starke/constantinos-kopelousos-16448155> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁶ The Florida Times-Union, *Constantinos Kopelousos*, <https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/pfla0495884> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁷ Miccosukee Casino & Resort, *History of the Miccosukee Tribe*, <https://miccosukee.com/miccosukee-tribe-history/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

¹⁸ Letter from Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller, Miami-Dade County, Resolution No. R-116-23 of Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (Dec. 12, 2023).

Major John Leroy Haynes

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 59 between U.S. 90 and U.S. 27 in Leon and Jefferson Counties as "Major John Leroy Haynes Memorial Highway."

Major John Leroy Haynes completed 30 years of military service in the United States Marine Corps, followed by almost 50 years of volunteer service to veterans and their families. Major Haynes received numerous military and civilian awards, including the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star and Combat "V," the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2013, and the Governor's Medal of Merit in 2017. Even in his last year of life, he continued participation in 11 military service organizations and remained active assisting veterans and military widows in obtaining their disability benefits. His work also included visiting the gravesites of fallen heroes with a group of retired veteran friends. Major Haynes passed away on November 14, 2023 at age 93.¹⁹

Tuskegee Airman

The bill designates that portion of I-10 between the Alabama state line and I-75 as "Tuskegee Airman Memorial Highway."

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces. During their years of operation, from 1940 to 1946, 996 pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Approximately 445 were deployed overseas, and 150 lost their lives during that period. Sixty-six pilots were killed in action or accidents and 32 were captured and held as prisoners of war.²⁰

Randy Roberts

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 570/Polk Parkway between mile marker 3.5 and mile marker 2.5 in Polk County as "Randy Roberts Memorial Highway."

Randy Roberts, a lifelong Floridian, graduated from the University of Florida²¹ and subsequently served as the Director of Government Affairs for Publix Supermarkets. Mr. Roberts passed away on February 27, 2009. In his honor, and as a way to celebrate the way he lived his life, the Randy Roberts Foundation was established to help young men and women who care about their community and who want to make an impact.²²

Carol Jenkins Barnett

The bill designates that portion of S.R. 35/George Jenkins Boulevard between Kathleen Road and N. Sloan Avenue in Polk County as "Carol Jenkins Barnett Memorial Highway."

Carol Jenkins Barnett was the daughter of George W. Jenkins, the founder of Publix Super Markets, and was born and raised in Lakeland, Florida. Ms. Barnett started her career with Publix in 1972 as a cashier and later worked in its corporate marketing research and development department. In 1983, she joined the foundation's board of directors, which later became Publix Super Markets Charities. Ms. Barnett was involved in generously giving back to nonprofit organizations, including Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Family Fundamentals, and countless others. Ms. Barnett passed away on Dec. 7, 2021.²³

¹⁹ Tallahassee Democrat, *Major John L. Haynes*, (Nov. 18, 2023), <https://www.tallahassee.com/obituaries/psar0631025> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²⁰ BlackPast, *The Tuskegee Airmen*, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/tuskegee-airmen-blackpast-org/#:~:text=The%20Tuskegee%20Airmen%20were%20the,their%20lives%20during%20that%20period> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²¹ The Ledger, *Publix Marketer, Lobbyist Randy Roberts Dies at 36*, <https://www.theledger.com/story/news/2009/02/28/publix-marketer-lobbyist-randy-roberts-dies-at-36/25996691007/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²² Randy Roberts Foundation, *Our Vision*, <https://www.randyrobertsfoundation.org/about-us> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²³ The Children's Movement of Florida, *Carol Jenkins Barnett, Board Member Emerita (Deceased)*, <https://www.childrensmovementflorida.org/about/people/carol-jenkins-barnett> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

Trooper Zachary Fink

The bill designates that portion of I-95 between mile markers 115 and 120 in St. Lucie County as the "Trooper Zachary Fink Memorial Highway."

Trooper Zachary Fink served with the Florida Highway Patrol for more than three years.²⁴ On February 2, 2024, Trooper Fink was killed while attempting to stop a reckless driver on I-95.²⁵

E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge

The bill designates, upon completion of construction, the new S.R. A1A North Causeway Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway in St. Lucie County as "E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge." This designation replaces the "D.H. 'Banty' Saunders Bridge" designation.²⁶

The Summerlin name has been connected with Florida since 1770, when members of the family came from England and Scotland and settled on the St. Mary's River in the border between the British colony of Georgia and the Spanish colony of Florida. In 1888, Edward Cabell Summerlin and his wife, Pollyanna, arrived near St. Lucie Village. Edward Cabell Summerlin and his wife had 14 children. More than 250 people of varying degrees of kinship to E.C. Summerlin have spread over the Treasure Coast and the state.²⁷

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

FDOT estimates a cost of \$1,800 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$900 per sign.²⁸ Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$30,600 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing FDOT resources.²⁹

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

²⁴ Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *FHP Memorial, Zachary Fink*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/florida-highway-patrol/fhp-memorial/zachary-fink/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²⁵ Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Funeral Service for FHP Trooper Zachary Fink*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/2024/02/14/funeral-service-for-fhp-trooper-zachary-fink/> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²⁶ Ch. 65-781, Laws of Fla.

²⁷ Treasure Coast Palm, *Summerlins celebrate their Treasure Coast Legacy*, <https://archive.tcpalm.com/news/summerlins-celebrate-their-treasure-coast-legacy-ep-400832953-347895831.html> (last visited Mar. 4, 2024).

²⁸ Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Transportation, FW: road designation sign costs (Oct. 10, 2023).

²⁹ *Id.*

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.