

**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 Transportation

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BILL: CS/SB 868

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Boyd

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations

DATE: January 31, 2024

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Johnson	Vickers	TR	Fav/CS
2.			ATD	
3.			FP	

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 868 creates the following honorary transportation facility designations and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers for:

- Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway in Manatee County.
- Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk in Alachua County.
- Airman Mohammed ‘Mo’ Sameh Haitham Memorial Way in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.
- Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway in Charlotte County.
- Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway in Seminole County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024

**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, 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>

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, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before the installation of the markers.<sup>3</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law creating honorary designations of transportation facilities.

**Subsection 1** 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, 20-year old Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto was killed when, in a training accident, his Bradley fighting vehicle rolled over.<sup>4</sup> He graduated from Manatee High School in 2017 and joined the US Army in January 2018, as an Infantryman. Nicholas was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and received the Expert Marksmanship Badge.<sup>5</sup>

**Subsection 2** 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 killed when hit by a car while crossing East University Avenue in Gainesville.<sup>6</sup> FDOT has installed a pedestrian crosswalk at the site of Dylan’s death.<sup>7</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> My Fallen Soldiers, *Panipinto Nicholas*, <https://myfallensoldiers.com/2019/11/06/panipinto-nicholasarmy-specialist/>, (last visited January 25, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Nicholas C. Panipinto Obituary, <https://www.brownandsonsfuneral.com/obituary/nicholas-panipinto> (last visited January 25, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Aaron Adelson, *Mother of 4-year old hit and killed pleas for pedestrian safety*, November 10, 2021, <https://mycbs4.com/news/local/mother-of-4-year-old-hit-and-killed-pleas-pedestrian-safety> (last visited January 18, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Seth Johnson, *Gainesville unveils new road sign in honor of Dylan Roberts*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/news/gainesville-road-sign-dylan-roberts> (last visited January 18, 2023).

**Subsection 3** designates those portions of the Gandy Bridge on U.S. 92 located within of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties as “Airman Mohammed “Mo” Sameh Haitham Memorial Way.”

On December 6, 2019, Airman Mohammed “Mo” Sameh Haitham was the victim of an active shooter at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. He has been widely recognized as a hero for his actions in connection with the incident. Airman Haitham was a 2018 graduate of Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg.<sup>8</sup>

**Subsection 4** 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 fatally struck by an impaired motorist while conducting a traffic stop on I-75. Deputy Sheriff Taylor joined the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office in August 2021 and was officially sworn in on February 14, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**Subsection 5** designates that portion of S.R. 434 between S.R. 400 and Ronald Reagan Blvd. in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway.”

On December 29, 1977, Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil was mortally wounded when he interrupted an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Longwood. Deputy Sheriff Pfeil was a retired New York City police officer who served as a reserve deputy sheriff after moving to Florida.<sup>10</sup>

**Subsection 6** designates that portion of U.S. 17-92 between 1st Street and 25th Street in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway.”

On June 9, 1975, Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore succumbed to smoke inhalation and intense heat exposure while rescuing inmates during a fire at the Seminole County Jail. Deputy Sheriff Moore had successfully brought several inmates to safety before heroically re-entering the burning jail, in yet another attempt to save trapped inmates.<sup>11</sup>

**Subsection 7** 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.”

On September 14, 1922, Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man for theft. Deputy Sheriff Jacobs located the man at a nearby home,

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<sup>8</sup> The United States Navy Memorial, *Mohammed Sameh "Mo" Haitham*, <https://navylog.navy memorial.org/haitham-mohammed> (last visited January 18, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, *Deputy Christopher Taylor tragically killed in the line of duty*, <https://ccsoblog.org/2022/11/23/deputy-christopher-taylor-tragically-killed-in-the-line-of-duty/> (last visited January 24, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, *In Memoriam*, <https://www.seminolesheriff.org/page.aspx?id=18> (last visited January 26, 2024).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

where the suspect opened fire, striking Deputy Sheriff Jacobs. Deputy Sheriff Jacobs was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.<sup>12</sup>

**Subsection 8** directs FDOT to erect suitable markers for each of the above honorary designations.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

#### **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.

#### **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 \$12,600, based on the assumption that a minimum of two markers are required at a cost to FDOT of no less than \$900 each. The estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. FDOT is expected to absorb the estimated cost within existing resources.

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<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill contains an undesignated section of Florida statutes.

**IX. 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 on January 30, 2023:**

The committee substitute designates the following additional honorary designations for transportation facilities:

- Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk in Alachua County.
- Airman Mohammed ‘Mo’ Sameh Haitham Memorial Way in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.
- Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway in Charlotte County.
- Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway in Seminole County.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.