

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 885](#)

**TITLE:** Transportation Facility Designations

**SPONSOR(S):** Brannan

**COMPANION BILL:** None

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Economic Infrastructure](#)

17 Y, 0 N



[Commerce](#)

25 Y, 0 N, As CS

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill designates transportation facilities for memorial purposes and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers for each designation.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures.

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill requires FDOT to erect suitable markers for the following transportation facility designations: (Section [1](#))

#### [State Representative/Circuit Judge John J. Crews, Jr. Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 90 between the intersection of North 3rd Street in Baker County and the Nassau County line is designated as "State Representative/Circuit Judge Hon. John J. Crews, Jr., Memorial Highway."

#### [Warrior Sacrifice Way](#)

That portion of S.R. 295/Navy Boulevard between Duncan Road and S.R. 292/Gulf Beach Highway in Escambia County is designated as "Warrior Sacrifice Way."

#### [Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge](#)

The bridge on Moncrief Road West over the Ribault River in Duval County is designated as "Bernard Wilkes Ribault River Bridge."

#### [Dickey Betts Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of U.S. 41 between North Creek and Blackburn Point Road in Sarasota County is designated as "Dickey Betts Memorial Highway."

#### [Phil Smith Memorial Highway](#)

That portion of S.R. 5/U.S. 1 between NE 38th Street and E Commercial Boulevard in Broward County is designated as "Phil Smith Memorial Highway."

The bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill will have an insignificant negative impact on state government expenditures. In 2025, FDOT estimated a cost of \$2,400 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$1,200

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per sign.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$12,000 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing FDOT resources.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### **Legislative Designation of Transportation Facilities**

The Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge 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 facilities and may not require local governments or private parties to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listing.<sup>2</sup>

Unless specifically provided by law, public facilities such as roads, bridges, and other similar facilities may not be named for any living person.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Transportation Facility Markers**

Following a legislative designation, FDOT is required to place markers at the termini or intersections specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and may place other markers it deems as appropriate.<sup>4</sup> Before markers may be erected, the appropriate city or county commission must pass a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation. If the designated bridge or road segment is located in more than one city or county, there must be resolutions supporting the designation from each affected local government before markers may be erected.<sup>5</sup>

### **Biographical Information**

#### **State Representative/Circuit Judge Hon. John J. Crews, Jr.**

The Hon. John J. Crews Jr. served his country in World War II as a Marine Corps Fighter Pilot before serving the state of Florida as a state representative for Baker County in the Florida House of Representatives for 14 years from 1953 to 1966, including a stint as acting Speaker of the House. Crews was also a renowned lawyer who served as the Chief Judge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida.

#### **Warrior Sacrifice Way**

Warrior Sacrifice Way honors the victims of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola on December 6, 2019, where three men were killed and eight others were injured.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Bernard Wilkes**

Coach Bernard Wilkes was recognized as one of the most successful high school coaches in Florida's history. He dedicated 30 years of service to the Duval County Public School System, teaching and coaching basketball at Ribault Senior High School. Throughout his career, Coach Wilkes led the basketball team to four state championships, 12 Gateway Conference championships, 21 district titles, and reached the Florida High School Athletic Association Finals 16 times. Coach Wilkes passed away on March 5, 2006.

#### **Dickey Betts**

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<sup>1</sup> Email from Jack Rogers, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Transportation, RE: Road Designations Review (Feb. 13, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> [S. 334.071\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [S. 267.062\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [S. 334.071\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [S. 334.071\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> NBC News, *Suspected shooter at Naval Air Station Pensacola was Saudi Air Force member*, December 6, 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/active-shooter-reported-naval-air-station-pensacola-n1096966> (last visited Jan.16, 2026).

Dickey Betts was a guitarist, vocalist, and co-founder of the legendary Allman Brothers Band, a group that pioneered the southern rock sound. Betts was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the band and received a Grammy Award with the group for Best Rock Performance. Betts was ranked as one of Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Guitarists of All-Time and was the writer and vocalist of the band's biggest hit, "Ramblin' Man." Betts was a Florida native, born in West Palm Beach, and resided in the Sarasota area for most of his life. Betts passed away on April 18, 2024.

### Phil Smith

Philip P. "Phil" Smith was an auto dealer and philanthropist who passed away at age 70 in 2016 after a battle with ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Under the Phil Smith Management Co., he led an auto dealership and property management company with 780 employees and some \$500 million in annual revenue. Smith once owned as many as 17 auto dealerships in Florida and North Carolina. He also owned the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. Among their many charitable contributions, he and his wife donated a \$5 million gift to Florida Atlantic University's College of Business in Boca Raton<sup>7</sup> and a \$7 million gift to Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale to create the Phil Smith Neuroscience Institute at Holy Cross Hospital.<sup>8</sup>

## BILL HISTORY

| COMMITTEE REFERENCE                                      | ACTION           | DATE      | STAFF<br>DIRECTOR/<br>POLICY CHIEF | ANALYSIS<br>PREPARED BY |
|--|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Economic Infrastructure<br/>Subcommittee</a> | 17 Y, 0 N        | 1/20/2026 | Keating                            | Dallas                  |
| <a href="#">Commerce Committee</a>                       | 25 Y, 0 N, As CS | 2/10/2026 | Hamon                              | Dallas                  |

THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE: Added four transportation facility designations.

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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<sup>7</sup> Florida Atlantic University, *Remembering Alumnus and Local Businessman Phil Smith*, <https://www.fau.edu/president/blog/blog-entry-121916/> (last visited Feb. 6, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Holy Cross Health, *Neurosciences*, <https://www.holy-cross.com/services/neurosciences> (last visited Feb. 6, 2026).