

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** PCS for CS/HB 389 Transportation Facility Designations

**SPONSOR(S):** Infrastructure Strategies Committee

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

<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ANALYST</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF</b>
Orig. Comm.: Infrastructure Strategies Committee		Walker	Harrington

**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

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 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.

The bill creates 12 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 provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED 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 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

##### 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

#### 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.<sup>5</sup>

##### 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.<sup>6</sup> Panipinto was assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Calvary Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.<sup>7</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> S. 267.062(1), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> S. 334.071(2), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> S. 334.071(3), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/26469-deputy-sheriff-christopher-taylor> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> My Fallen Soldiers, *Panipinto, Nicholas*, <https://myfallensoldiers.com/2019/11/06/panipinto-nicholasarmy-specialist/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Brown and Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, *Nicholas C. Panipinto Obituary*, <https://www.brownsandsonsfuneral.com/obituary/nicholas-panipinto> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

### Dylan Roberts

The bill designates the mid-block crossing and pedestrian hybrid beacon on that portion of East University Avenue/S.R. 26 between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 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.<sup>8</sup>

### 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.<sup>9</sup>

### 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.<sup>10</sup>

### 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.<sup>11</sup>

### 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.”

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.<sup>12</sup>

### Abe Resnick

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<sup>8</sup> 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 Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> The United States Navy Memorial, *Mohammed Sameh “Mo” Haitham*, <https://navylog.nawymemorial.org/haitham-mohammed> (last visited Feb. 29, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> Officer Down Memorial, *Reserve Deputy George A. Pfeil*, [Reserve Deputy George A. Pfeil, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](https://www.odmp.org/officer/7012-deputy-sheriff-george-a-pfeil) (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>11</sup> Officer Down Memorial, *Deputy Sheriff Robert O. Moore, Jr.*, [Deputy Sheriff Robert O. Moore, Jr., Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](https://www.odmp.org/officer/7012-deputy-sheriff-robert-o-moore-jr) (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs*, <https://www.odmp.org/officer/7012-deputy-sheriff-james-cleveland-jacobs> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

The bill designates that portion of Bay Avenue between West 25th Street and West 27th Street in Sunset Islands, 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. Resnick also served as Vice Mayor of the City.<sup>13</sup>

#### Pastor Rick Blackwood

The bill designates that portion of Southwest 168th Street between U.S. Highway 1 and Southwest 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.<sup>14</sup>

#### Gus Kopelousos

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

Constantinos "Gus" Kopelousos of Starke, Florida, passed away on May 22, 2023, at the age of 85.<sup>15</sup> Mr. Kopelousos, raised by Greek immigrant parents, graduated from the University of Tampa and subsequently took over the family business, the Garden Restaurant.<sup>16</sup>

#### Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

The bill designates that portion of State Road 997/Krome Avenue/West 177th Avenue from Southwest 8th Street to the entrance of 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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup>

#### E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge

The bill designates 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.<sup>19</sup>

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

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<sup>13</sup> 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 Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>14</sup> Miami Herald, *Rev. Dr. Rick Blackwood*, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/herald/name/rick-blackwood-obituary?id=52928579>, (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>15</sup> Echovita, *Constantinos "Gus" Kopelousos*, <https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/fl/starke/constantinos-kopelousos-16448155> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>16</sup> The Florida Times-Union, *Constantinos Kopelousos*, <https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/pfla0495884> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>17</sup> Miccosukee Casino & Resort, *History of the Miccosukee Tribe*, <https://miccosukee.com/miccosukee-tribe-history/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>18</sup> 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).

<sup>19</sup> Ch. 65-781, Laws of Fla.

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.<sup>20</sup>

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Creates honorary transportation facility designations; directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

**Section 2:** Amends Sections 1 and 2 of chapter 65-781, Laws of Florida.

**Section 3:** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

## 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.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$21,600 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. This cost can be absorbed within existing FDOT resources.<sup>22</sup>

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

## III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

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<sup>20</sup> 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 Feb. 9, 2024).

<sup>21</sup> Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Transportation, FW: road designation sign costs, (Oct. 10, 2023).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

Not applicable.