
Transportation Committee

SJM 8008

Brief Description: Designating mileposts 45 to 51 of state route number 6 as the Washington state patrol trooper Justin R. Schaffer memorial highway.

Sponsors: Senator Wilson, J..

Brief Summary of Joint Memorial

- Requests the Washington State Transportation Commission to commence proceedings to designate a section of State Route 6 in Lewis County as the "Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin R. Schaffer Memorial Highway."

Hearing Date: 2/15/24

Staff: Christine Thomas (786-7142).

Background:

State Highway Facility Naming.

The Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for naming state transportation facilities, including state highways, bridges, rest areas, and other state highway facilities. The Commission's policy states, "A naming is done in a thorough and deliberative manner to honor and institute an enduring memory of a person or group of people who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the state or nation, and with the widespread support of the people from the area in which the facility is located."

For the Commission to consider a proposal, the requesting entity must provide sufficient evidence indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal. This evidence can include a letter of support from the state or federal legislator representing the area encompassing

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the facility to be renamed. Other evidence that can provide proof of community support includes a resolution passed by other elected bodies in the impacted area, support from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and supportive action from a local organization such as a chamber of commerce.

If a naming request is submitted for a person who has recently died, the Commission does not act on the request for at least 12 months after the date of passing to allow for a respectful period of mourning and reflection.

Upon passage of a joint memorial requesting the naming of a facility, the Commission holds a public hearing prior to taking action. After the Commission takes final action in naming a state transportation facility, the WSDOT designs and installs the appropriate signs.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin R. Schaffer.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin R. Schaffer served with the Washington State Patrol for more than six years beginning in September 2014. Trooper Schaffer became a Drug Recognition Expert in 2016, then partnered with narcotics K9 Frankie in 2018. On March 24, 2020, Trooper Schaffer was fatally struck by a vehicle while attempting to deploy spike strips to stop a fleeing armed robbery suspect.

Summary of Bill:

The memorialists request that the Commission commence proceedings to designate the section of State Route 6 that traverses Lewis County from milepost 45 to milepost 51, as the "Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin R. Schaffer Memorial Highway."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.