

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HJM 4006

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Brief Description: Requesting that a portion of State Route No. 6 be designated "The Washington State Patrol Trooper Justin R. Schaffer Memorial Highway."

Sponsors: Representatives McEntire, Orcutt, Abbarno and Walsh.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 1/29/24, 1/31/24 [DP].

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."

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 29 members: Representatives Fey, Chair; Donaghy, Vice Chair; Paul, Vice Chair; Timmons, Vice Chair; Barkis, Ranking Minority Member; Hutchins, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Low, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Robertson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berry, Bronoske, Chapman, Cortes, Dent, Doglio, Duerr, Entenman, Goehner, Griffey, Hackney, Klicker, Mena, Nance, Orcutt, Ramel, Ramos, Schmidt, Volz, Walsh and Wylie.

Staff: Christine Thomas (786-7142).

Background:

State Highway Facility Naming.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

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 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. On March 24, 2020, Trooper Schaffer died in the line of duty.

Summary of Bill:

The memorialists of the bill 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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The untimely death of any individual is horrible, but it is especially horrible

when someone who puts on a uniform and experiences dangers every day dies in the line of duty. Washington State Patrol Trooper Schaffer was a hometown boy who was raised, educated, lived, and worked in southwest Washington in communities that he embraced and that embraced him. Trooper Schaffer was killed while deploying stop sticks during a high-speed chase. It is one's worst nightmare to have one of your troopers killed in the line of duty. Trooper Schaffer will always be remembered for his infectious smile and his contributions to the community. Naming this highway will further ensure that he will always be remembered and serve as a reminder of how dangerous the duty of being a state trooper is.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Joel McEntire, prime sponsor; and Jason Linn, Washington State Patrol.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.