

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SJM 8009

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, February 13, 2025

**Brief Description:** Designating the State Route Number 3 overpass at the junction of Chico Way NW in Bremerton as the Joe Mentor memorial overpass.

**Sponsors:** Senator MacEwen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/06/25, 2/13/25 [DP, w/oRec].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requests the Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to designate the State Route 3 overpass at the junction of Chico Way NW in Bremerton as the Joe Mentor Memorial Overpass.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Lias, Chair; Lovick, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Member; Goehner, Assistant Ranking Member; Alvarado, Christian, Cortes, Fortunato, Harris, Krishnadasan, MacEwen, Shewmake and Wilson, J..

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Ramos, Vice Chair; Chapman, Lovelett, Nobles and Valdez.

**Staff:** Daniel Masterson (786-7454)

**Background:** Naming Highways. The Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for naming state transportation facilities, including highways and bridges. The Commission naming 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

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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."

The naming process can be initiated by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), state and local governmental entities, citizen organizations, or an individual providing sufficient evidence to the Commission indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal. Alternatively, the Legislature may pass a joint memorial requesting a facility be named, at which point the Commission will hold a public hearing to allow public input. After the Commission takes final action, WSDOT designs and installs the appropriate signs.

Joe Mentor. Joe Mentor was born in 1933 in Covington, Louisiana and lived in Kitsap County from 1936 until his death in 2003. Joe Mentor was a Washington State Representative, serving two terms from 1968 to 1972 and was involved in many business and community groups in Kitsap County.

**Summary of Bill:** The Legislature requests the Commission commence proceedings to designate the State Route 3 overpass at the junction of Chico Way NW in Bremerton as the Joe Mentor Memorial Overpass to honor his years of public service.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Mr. Mentor was a state Representative and was deeply involved in the Kitsap community, he was also a conservationist and has left an enduring mark on the community. It would be a wonderful honor to recognize his lasting contributions.

I'm here on behalf of our family. This has been a really humbling experience for us all. What I remember most of my dad is that he never stopped. From the moment he woke up until he fell asleep at night, he did so many things every single day. When I was preparing for this hearing and looking at his old resume and everything he had done in his lifetime, I was just humbled by how long the list was. At this point in my life, I can't believe all that he accomplished, and it's so inspiring to me and what we're trying to show to our children. I think his love for his family was only matched by his pride in Kitsap County. Everywhere he went, if he met somebody he invited them over to our house and in everything he did showed his love for our county and his dedication for our county. It's been wonderful to feel the support for this memorial from current and past county commissioners, from the judiciary in our area, and so many other community members.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Drew MacEwen, Prime Sponsor; Jennifer Mills.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.