



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. S.B. 37 of the 129th G.A.](#) **Date:** December 11, 2012
Status: As Reported by House Transportation, Public Safety & Homeland Security **Sponsor:** Sen. Hughes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Prescribes a method by which the Director of Transportation designates memorial highways, streets, and roads to honor State Highway Patrol officers killed in the line of duty, and designates several new memorial highways

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may incur additional costs of around \$350 to \$400 per marker to install and maintain suitable plaques or signs along each applicable portion of road that is designated through the new process for naming highways after fallen Highway Patrol officers or specifically named in the bill itself.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- For memorial highways named in the bill that are located fully or partially within municipal boundaries, it is likely that ODOT will opt to make the applicable local government responsible for signage costs. Consequently, the appropriate local government would bear the signage costs if it were to install memorial markers on those roads.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

ODOT authority to designate memorial highways after fallen state troopers

The bill allows the Director of Transportation, in consultation with the Director of Public Safety and the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol, to designate portions of state highways that are outside of municipal corporations in honor of each State Highway Patrol trooper who is or has been killed in the line of duty. Each designated portion of roadway may not exceed 20 miles in length. Portions of the road to be designated that already have a designation under current law would carry both names. The bill allows the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along each type of road to indicate its name.

As a result of the new process in the bill, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may incur additional costs to install suitable plaques or signs along the designated portions of road along state highways in unincorporated areas of the state. The bill provides permissive authority for the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along roadways so designated. Under the current policy delineated in Ohio's Traffic Engineering Manual for memorial highways designated by the legislature under Chapter 5533. of the Revised Code, ODOT furnishes and pays for signs placed on state highways outside municipal boundaries. Presumably, ODOT will take the same approach for highways designated under this provision.

It is unclear how many memorial highways would be designated using the authority granted under the bill. This is because memorial highways could be designated for state troopers killed in the line of duty both in the past and in the future. Some fallen Highway Patrol officers already have highways designated in their memory under Chapter 5533. of the Revised Code. Since 2006, four State Highway Patrol officers have been killed in the line of duty.

According to ODOT, the current cost to manufacture, install, and maintain a single set of flatsheet signs at one location is estimated to be about \$350 to \$400 per sign, depending on the size of the sign(s), equipment, and materials needed to install them. Once a set of signs is installed, typically there are no maintenance costs unless the signs are damaged. Signs are usually in need of replacement every 12 to 15 years. When a highway is designated as a memorial, ODOT policy is to first install a memorial plaque in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location. If this is not practical, a marker is installed along the highway instead. Two plaques or two markers are usually installed, one in each direction at each location.

Newly designated memorial highways

The bill designates ten new memorial highways. These are listed in the table below in the order in which they appear in the bill. Pursuant to the Ohio Traffic Engineering Manual, memorial highway signs are paid for by ODOT when designated

highways are on U.S. or state routes outside municipal corporations, or on any Interstate highway. When a memorial highway is located within municipal boundaries, the applicable municipality may furnish and pay for the signs itself, or ODOT may furnish the signs and charge the municipality for the cost of doing so.

Memorial Highway Designations in Sub. S.B. 37			
Designation	Road to be named	County (Municipality, if applicable)	Sign costs paid by
Branch Rickey Memorial Highway	US-23	Scioto County	ODOT
Sergeant First Class Charles L. Adkins Memorial Highway	SR-101	Erie County	ODOT
Specialist Charles E. Odums, II Memorial Highway	US-250	Erie County (Sandusky)	City of Sandusky
David A. Gibson Memorial Highway	SR-104	Ross County	ODOT
U.S. Army Specialist Allen Nolan Memorial Highway	SR-676	Washington County	ODOT
Marine Corporal Paul W. Zanowick, II Memorial Highway	SR-725 E	Montgomery County (Miamisburg)	City of Miamisburg
Private First Class Jeffrey L. Rice Memorial Highway	SR-55 E	Miami County	ODOT
Boone Coleman Memorial Highway	SR-52	Scioto County	ODOT
Bill Burgett Highway	SR-13 N	Knox County	ODOT
Corporal Nicholas H. Olivas Memorial Highway	SR-128 N	Butler County (Hamilton)	ODOT/City of Hamilton