



House
Legislative
Analysis
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RENAME I-275 AFTER VETS

House Bill 4725 (Substitute H-1)
First Analysis (9-26-95)

Sponsor: Rep. Gerald Law
Committee: Transportation

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Congressionally chartered organization known as the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) celebrates 75 years of service this year. This national group serves all veterans, whether or not they are members, and contributes to the well-being of the communities in which its local chapters are located. Chapter 114 of the DAV, located within the City of Livonia, has approximately 1,500 members and will celebrate its fortieth anniversary next year. The DAV of Livonia helps veterans and their spouses and children file for benefits, provides social and recreational opportunities for veterans and their families, and serves the broader community by offering similar services for senior citizens and disabled children. To recognize their patriotism and service to the nation, this state, and their community, some have proposed renaming a portion of Interstate-275 which runs through the City of Livonia as the Disabled American Veterans of Livonia Memorial Highway.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would rename that portion of Interstate-275 located in the City of Livonia as the "Disabled American Veterans of Livonia Memorial Highway," and would direct the Department of Transportation to have suitable highway markers erected along this portion of the freeway displaying its new name.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Transportation says it would cost the department approximately \$1,000 to have two signs erected at both ends of I-275 indicating the name proposed by the bill. (9-21-95)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would recognize the work of the Livonia Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans in serving the needs of veterans, their families, and the

broader community by renaming the portion of I-275 that runs from Eight-Mile Road to I-96 as the Disabled American Veterans of Livonia Memorial Highway. The DAV was chartered by Congress exactly 75 years ago, after the end of World War I, and the Livonia chapter will celebrate its fortieth anniversary next year. Renaming highways after veterans organizations has become an accepted form of tribute to them in recent years (a total of sixteen highways in Michigan have been named in honor of veterans either by resolution or public act), and the bill would follow in that tradition by renaming the approximately four-mile stretch of I-275 that runs through Livonia after the local chapter of the DAV.

Against:

The Federal Highway Administration historically has discouraged the use of names in addition to numbered designations along interstate freeways, as the use of both can confuse motorists traveling at high speeds.

POSITIONS:

The Disabled American Veterans of Livonia supports the bill. (9-25-95)

The Department of Transportation does not oppose the bill. (9-25-95)

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