

Legislative Analysis



PFC BRETT WITTEVEEN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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Senate Bill 585 (H-1) as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Sen. Jon Bumstead

1st House Committee: Transportation

2nd House Committee: Ways and Means

Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to 3-23-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 585 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway US-31 in Oceana County beginning at Exit 144 (W. Shelby Road) and continuing north to Exit 149 (Hart/W. Polk Road) as the "PFC Brett Witteveen Memorial Highway."

Currently, the act designates US-31 as the "Blue Star Highway" in the Lower Peninsula and as the "Pere Marquette Memorial Highway" in Oceana and Mason Counties. The bill would exclude from these designations the portion of US-31 that it would name in honor of PFC Brett Witteveen, as described above.

MCL 250.1011 and 250.1014 and proposed MCL 250.1014a

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to committee testimony, the U.S. Department of Defense, and Military Times Honor the Fallen, Brett A. Witteveen was born on November 11, 1986, to Richard and Edith Witteveen in Fremont, Michigan. Known to his family and friends as a "happy-go-lucky kid," Brett knew early on that he wanted to join the military and serve his country. He was an exceptionally talented football player who played for Shelby and Hart schools, graduating from Hart High School in 2005. PFC Witteveen joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan. PFC Brett A. Witteveen died on February 19, 2007, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was 20 years old.

Dedicating a portion of US-31 in Oceana County would be an appropriate way to honor his dedication and sacrifice to his community, the state, and our county.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway "only when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the cost of erecting and maintaining those markers." As a result, the bill has no state or local impact.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Department of Transportation is neutral on the bill. (3-10-20)

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