

Legislative Analysis



PFC HOLLY McGEOGH MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5553 as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Rep. Alex Garza

1st Committee: Transportation

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 9-8-20

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5553 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway I-75 in the city of Taylor between its intersection with Allen Road and its intersection with Pennsylvania Road as the "PFC Holly McGeogh Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.1102

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony and online sources, Holly J. McGeogh was born on August 29, 1984, in Dearborn, Michigan. She was quick and fearless and showed throughout her childhood a remarkable courage and toughness. Upon entering Truman High School in Taylor, she joined the Junior ROTC (JROTC) and remained there until she graduated, achieving the rank of Company A commander.

Joining the Army was not as easy as she had hoped due to vision challenges in her right eye. After engaging several options from ophthalmologists, she was given the go-ahead to enlist and did so after graduation. She left for basic training in August 2002 and was a model soldier there and mentor to other soldiers. She stayed in Fort Jackson for Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a light-wheeled mechanic. On January 31, 2003, she was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, A Company, 4th Forward Support Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. McGeogh was deployed on April 2, 2003, to Tikrit, Iraq, at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces.

On January 31, 2004, McGeogh volunteered for a 60-mile trip to the northern Iraq city of Kirkuk to pick up parts. Her vehicle was the last in a five-vehicle convoy. An IED planted in the middle of the road exploded as her vehicle passed over it in Kirkuk. She died from her injuries. She was 19 years of age.

PFC Holly McGeogh was to be promoted to Specialist on February 1, 2004. She was posthumously promoted and awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Designating a portion of highway I-75 in Taylor would be an appropriate way to recognize her service to her community and this state and would honor her sacrifice for our nation.

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 fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The City of Taylor indicated support for the bill. (9-1-20)

The Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (9-1-20)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.