

Legislative Analysis



KEVIN D. WHITE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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Senate Bill 48 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Kimberly LaSata

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to: 6-23-21

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

(Enacted as Public Act 88 of 2021)

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 48 would amend the Memorial Highway Act to designate highway I-94 in Benton Charter Township from the interchange with highway I-196 (Exit 33) to the Napier Avenue exit (Exit 30) as the “Kevin D. White Memorial Highway.”

MCL 250.1110

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to committee testimony and news reports, Kevin D. White was born on February 1, 1971, to Wesley Singleton, Jr., and Earlene White in Detroit, Michigan. He attended school in the Benton Harbor Area School District, graduating from Benton Harbor High School in 1989. He married Yolanda Jenkins in 1999.

Kevin loved his community and served in many capacities, which led to his being elected as Benton Township supervisor in November 2016 after an initial appointed to the office in March 2015. Supervisor White served his community with diligence and with passion. In 2010, he was offered and accepted a position with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

On the morning of October 23, 2019, around 7:15 a.m., Supervisor White was driving an MDOT vehicle on the right shoulder of I-94. He exited the vehicle to pick up a large piece of debris when he was struck by one of two tires that came off a semi-truck trailer that was passing by. Supervisor White was transported to Spectrum Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, where he succumbed to his injuries. He was the first Michigan Department of Transportation worker to die on the job since 2008. He was 48 years old.

Dedicating a portion of I-94 in Benton Charter Township to the memory of Kevin D. White would be an appropriate way to honor his life, his dedication to his community, and his sacrifice to our state.

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 the markers.” As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (6-15-21)

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