

Legislative Analysis



CAPTAIN JEFFREY BROZICH MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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

House Bill 4604 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Jim Ellison

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 6-2-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4604 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway I-75 between 12 Mile Road and 14 Mile Road in the city of Madison Heights in Oakland County as the “Captain Jeffrey Brozich Memorial Highway.”

The act currently designates I-75 in Wayne and Oakland Counties as the “Walter P. Chrysler Freeway.” The bill would exclude from this designation the portion of I-75 that it would name in honor of Captain Jeffrey Brozich, as described above.

MCL 250.1044

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to committee testimony and media reports, Captain Brozich was a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. Hired in 2000 by the Madison Heights Fire Department, Captain Brozich was a decorated and committed community servant who rose through the ranks to become sergeant in 2011, lieutenant in 2016, and captain in 2019. Indeed, although he also served a SWAT medic for South Oakland from 2004 to 2008, the Madison Heights Fire Department was considered “home” to Captain Brozich for over 20 years.

On Sunday night, February 29, 2021, while on duty at the station, Captain Brozich retired for the night. During an emergency call at 3 a.m. on March 1, fellow firefighters noticed that Captain Brozich did not show up at his truck in response to the call. The firefighters rushed to his quarters and found him unresponsive. He was 57 years old.

Dedicating a portion of I-75 within the city of Madison Heights would be an appropriate way to recognize and honor his sacrifice, service, and commitment to his community and the state of Michigan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the State Transportation Department shall only provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway "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 Madison Heights Fire Department indicated support for the bill. (5-25-21)

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (5-25-21)

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

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