

Legislative Analysis



TROOPER STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 4689 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Kara Hope

Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Complete to 6-11-23

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4689 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway US-127 in Ingham County from the Kipp Road exit to the highway I-96 interchange as the “Trooper Starr Memorial Highway.”

Currently, the act designates US-127 in Ingham County as the “James M. Pelton Firefighters Memorial Highway.” The designation of a portion of US-127 in honor of Trooper Caleb Starr as described above would be in addition to, and would not replace, that current designation.

MCL 250.1067

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony, news reports, and the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, around 10 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020, Trooper Caleb Starr was driving westbound on Grand River Avenue, west of Nash Highway, in Boston Township in Ionia County, in response to an investigatory call in the area. His vehicle was struck by a Jeep SUV headed east on Grand River. The vehicle crossed into Trooper Starr’s lane of travel and struck his patrol vehicle head on. Trooper Starr was airlifted to Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, where he was treated for three weeks. He died of his injuries on Friday, July 31, 2020. Trooper Caleb H. Starr was the fifty-fourth Michigan State Police trooper to die in the line of duty. He was 33 years old.

Dedicating the portion of US-127 in Ingham County that begins at the Kipp Road exit and continues north to the I-96 interchange would be an appropriate way to recognize Trooper Starr’s sacrifice and to honor his commitment and dedication of service to the citizens of Michigan.

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:

Representatives of the Michigan State Police testified in support of the bill. (6-6-23)

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (6-6-23)

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