

Legislative Analysis



KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE

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

House Bill 5434 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Carol Glanville
Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure
Complete to 2-29-24

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5434 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate highway M-11 in Kent County, from 3 Mile Road to the bridge over the Grand River, as the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Drive.”

Proposed MCL 250.1114

BACKGROUND:

According to information provided in committee testimony and from the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, North Korea’s invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, led to our nation’s second mobilization in a decade. Between 1950 and 1955, 6.8 million American men and women served in the armed forces worldwide.

Twenty-six Michigan Army and Air National Guard units were called to active military service during the Korean War. Three Michigan National Guard units were awarded battle participation credits for their roles in the Korean conflict. All three squadrons of the 127th Fighter Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, were federalized in 1951. The remaining federalized Michigan Army and Air National Guard units served in the United States, but some of their officers and men were transferred to units that eventually saw service in Korea.

The Korean War period ended nearly 70 years ago. In 2000, there were just under 4 million Korean War veterans nationwide, with about 128,000 making Michigan their home. In 2020, those figures were about 1.3 million and 41,000, respectively. By 2030, the Korean War veteran population is projected to fall below 200,000 nationally, and in Michigan below 4,000.

Designating a portion of highway M-11 in Kent County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Drive would be an appropriate way to honor their sacrifice, dedication, and service to their community, our state, and 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:

A representative of the Korean War Veterans Association testified in support of the bill.
(2-27-24)

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.