

# Legislative Analysis



## KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE

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**House Bill 5434 as enacted**

**Public Act 125 of 2024**

**Sponsor: Rep. Carol Glanville**

**House Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure**

**Senate Committee: Veterans and Emergency Services**

**Complete to 10-7-24**

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5434 amends 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.”

MCL 250.1114

### BACKGROUND:

North Korea’s invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, led to our nation’s second mobilization within a decade (the first, of course, being World War Two). Between 1950 and 1955, 6.8 million American men and women served in the armed forces worldwide.<sup>1</sup> The conflict ended roughly 70 years ago, and the number of living veterans has been increasingly declining. 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 and timely way to honor these veterans’ sacrifice, dedication, and service.

### 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.

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■ 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.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the many Michiganders who volunteered or were conscripted into service, 26 Michigan Army and Air National Guard units were called to active military service during the war. Three Michigan National Guard units were awarded battle participation credits. 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.