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MURRAY VANWAGONER & WILLIAM FAUST BUILDINGS

Senate Bill 121 with House committee amendments First Analysis (7-2-97)

Sponsor: Senator Walter H. North
**Senate Committee: Government
Operations**
**House Committee: House Oversight
And Ethics**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Murray D. VanWagoner (March 18, 1989 - June 12, 1986) is a highly respected figure in Michigan history. Mr. VanWagoner held the elected post of state Highway Commissioner from 1933 to 1940, after which he was elected governor during 1941-42. He has been acclaimed for his efforts in establishing Michigan's first roadside parks and information centers, and for advocating the building of the Mackinac Bridge. He was appointed as a member of the Mackinac Bridge Authority when it was established, and served for more than 30 years. It has been suggested that the State Transportation Building be named after Mr. VanWagoner.

Another equally well known citizen is state Senator William Faust (March 29, 1929 - January 21, 1995). Senator Faust, formerly a publisher and managing editor, represented the 12th Senatorial District, which includes the City of Westland and part of Wayne County, from 1966 until 1994, and was Senate Majority Leader for 7 years. Senator Faust played an integral part in having the State Library (now the Library of Michigan) transferred from the Department of Education to the legislature, and was instrumental in the construction of the Michigan Library and Historical Center. A sculpture of Senator Faust stands in the second floor atrium of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, and, in addition, it has been suggested that the portion of the center that houses the Library of Michigan be designated as the William Faust Memorial Library of Michigan.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

Senate Bill 121 would amend Public Act 173 of 1968, which names certain state buildings, to provide that the State Transportation Building in the Lansing Capitol Complex would be named the "Murray D. VanWagoner

Building." In addition, the bill would provide that the portion of the Michigan Library and Historical Center

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Complex that houses the Library of Michigan would be designated and known as the "William Faust Memorial Library of Michigan."

MCL 19.131

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The House Fiscal Agency estimates that the bill would have a minuscule impact on state funds. (7-1-97) According to the Department of Management and Budget, the signs used in the naming of state buildings will be uniform in the future, and the cost of each sign will be approximately \$3,000. (7-1-97)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Two highly respected figures in Michigan have become well-known to most of its citizens: Senator William Faust and former Governor Murray VanWagoner are both highly-respected public servants who had long, distinguished careers. Mr. VanWagoner was instrumental in having the Mackinac Bridge built, and established the roadside parks we take for granted today. Of Senator Faust it has been said that he used his leadership positions in the legislature in a lifelong advocacy of libraries, literacy, and learning. It is a fitting tribute that these particular buildings be named in their honor.

Against:

Both the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Historical Center are housed in one building -- the Michigan Library and Historical Center Building. Senate Bill 121 would rename the Library of Michigan part of the building. In effect, then, Senate Bill 121 would rename

one-half of a building. Some people maintain that this would lead to confusion: rarely does one building have two names.

POSITIONS:

There are no positions on the bill.

Analyst: R. Young

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.