

Legislative Analysis



DEPUTY ERNEST W. HEIKKILA MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 5478 as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Rep. Greg VanWoerkom

1st Committee: Transportation

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 12-12-20

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5478 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to dedicate the portion of highway M-120 in Muskegon County between E. Bard Road and 4th Street as the "Deputy Ernest W. Heikkila Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.1104

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to committee testimony and *In the Line of Duty: A Tribute to Fallen Law Enforcement Officers from the State of Michigan*, on February 15, 1995, Deputy Ernest Heikkila was responding to a vehicle accident when his cruiser was hit by a truck driven by a volunteer firefighter. Deputy Heikkila was traveling north on M-120 when his vehicle was broadsided by the fire truck at the intersection of Riley-Thompson. Witnesses told police that icy roads caused by freezing rain may have contributed to the accident. Deputy Heikkila died at the scene. He was 50 years old. He had been with the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department for 20 years

Dedicating a portion of M-120 in Muskegon County would be an appropriate way to honor Deputy Heikkila's service and dedication 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 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:

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (12-3-20)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best

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