

Legislative Analysis



FIREFIGHTER COLEMAN A. TATE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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Senate Bill 30 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Adam Hollier

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to 2-10-21

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 30 would amend the Michigan Highway Memorial Act to designate highway I-94 in Wayne County between M-53 and Huntington Avenue as the "Firefighter Coleman A. Tate Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.2070a

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony and online sources, Coleman A. Tate was born to Donnie and Joe Tate on December 30, 1952. He attended Denby High School in Detroit. He began his service with the Detroit Fire Department in 1977 and was assigned to Ladder Company 31 on Detroit's East Side. He took pride in being a firefighter and in giving back to his city and his community through his service. On the evening of February 17, 1981, while riding on a fast-moving fire engine in response to an emergency call, Firefighter Tate had to stand up and use his hands to strap on his air tank and mask. He was thrown off balance, fell backward from the truck due to the 35-pound tank on his back, and struck his head on the pavement. He died as a result of his injuries on February 21, 1981. He was 28 years old.

Dedicating a portion of I-94 in Wayne County would be an appropriate way to recognize and honor Firefighter Coleman A. Tate's sacrifice in the line of duty and his service to the city of Detroit 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. (2-9-21)

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