

Legislative Analysis



SERGEANT KRISTOPHER J. GOULD MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 4700 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Timothy Beson

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 6-2-21

Analysis available at
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SUMMARY:

House Bill 4700 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the bridge on M-13 over Cheboyganing Creek in Bay County as the "Sergeant Kristopher J. Gould Memorial Bridge."

Proposed MCL 250.2090

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to committee testimony and media reports, Kristopher Gould was born on February 12, 1986, in Saginaw, Michigan. As a child, he loved to go dirt biking and motorcycle riding and play baseball and golf. Kristopher participated in football, baseball, and wrestling, while at Valley Lutheran High School. He was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where he served with the usher and youth groups. Kristopher joined the Army National Guard in 2003, before graduating from high school in 2004, and served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006.

Sergeant Gould was an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke. Sergeant Gould had a difficult time adjusting to civilian life and wanted to make the Army his career. He went on a third deployment in Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009. While serving in Afghanistan, Sergeant Gould performed traffic control point operations to restrict Taliban movement in southern part of the country. On February 27, 2011, Sergeant Kristopher J. Gould died in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using a makeshift bomb. He was 25 years old.

Dedicating the bridge on M-13 over Cheboyganing Creek in Bay County would be a fitting way to honor his sacrifice and service to his community, his country, and the state of Michigan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the State Transportation Department shall only provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway "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.
(5-25-21)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

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