

Legislative Analysis



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER DARRIAN YOUNG MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 4158 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Dale W. Zorn
Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure
Complete to 6-11-23

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4158 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway M-50 in Monroe County beginning at the intersection with Herr Road and extending west to the intersection with Strasburg Road as the “Animal Control Officer Darrian Young Memorial Highway.”

Proposed MCL 250.1006d

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony and media reports, Animal Control Officer Darrian Young was born in Monroe, Michigan, to Tammi Kirby and Aaron Young on April 29, 1996. At a young age, Darrian developed a love and passion for horses. She started showing horses at age five and owned a horse of her own by time she was seven. Before graduating from Airport High School, Darrian rode with the equestrian team, leading them to four district and two regional championships. After her high school graduation, she took an office job, but her passion for animals and horses was still a strong part of who she was. When a Monroe County animal control officer position became available, Darrian immediately applied and accepted the job when offered. In 2019, she began her lifelong dream career as an animal control officer. She also served as a volunteer with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Mounted Division.

On the morning of June 4, 2020, at approximately 8:50 a.m., Officer Young was on her way to work driving in a marked Animal Control Division vehicle heading south on Raisinville Road. While she was crossing the intersection with M-50, a driver disregarded a red light, entered the intersection, and struck her vehicle. Officer Young was transported to a Toledo hospital and succumbed to her injuries two days later. She was 24 years old. Animal Control Officer Darrian Young had proudly served her community and the animals in Monroe County for just over one year.

Dedicating a portion of M-50 beginning at its intersection with Herr Road would be an appropriate way to honor her life, her service, and her sacrifice to Monroe County and the people of 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 Sheriffs Association indicated support for the bill. (5-23-23)

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (5-23-23)

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