

**SFA**

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

• (517) 373-5383

Senate Bill 564 (as passed by the Senate)  
Sponsor: Senator Gilbert J. DiNello  
Committee: Local Government and Veterans

Date Completed: 1-4-90

RECEIVED

MAY 15 1990

Mich. 1-4-90

**RATIONALE**

To commemorate the sacrifices of the nearly 60,000 American men and women who died in the Vietnam conflict, more than 2,600 of whom were from Michigan, and to honor the services of the 2.8 million men and women who served in the conflict, of whom more than 160,000 were from Michigan, some people have proposed designating a portion of M-59 located in Macomb County as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway".

**CONTENT**

The bill would create an act to designate a portion of State highway M-59 located in Macomb County, except that portion located east of M-3, as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway". The State Department of Transportation would be required to provide for the erection on the highway of suitable markers that indicated the name of the highway.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would result in minimal costs to the State. Each marker would cost approximately \$150.

**ARGUMENTS****Supporting Argument**

Renaming a portion of M-59 the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" would represent a small token of gratitude for the contributions made by men and women who fought and died in the Vietnam conflict. Designating this

portion of the State highway that runs through Macomb County would be a fitting tribute, especially since that county is the home of one of the largest chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America in the country, Macomb County Chapter 154. The bill would exempt the section of M-59 between M-3 and Anchor Bay, which already is named the William P. Rosso Highway in honor of the first road commissioner in Macomb County. Thus, this designation would remain intact as a tribute to a figure in the county's history who was instrumental in developing Macomb County's road system.

**Opposing Argument**

According to the Department of Transportation, a number of State highways and interstate freeways that traverse the State have been given names other than the numerical designations, for example the portion of I-75 that runs from Sault Ste. Marie to the Ohio border has been named the Veterans Memorial Highway. State transportation officials, however, discourage the renaming of such roadways because it can confuse motorists. This is especially true when sections of the same road are called a variety of names. State highway M-59, which runs from Howell to Mount Clemens, in certain areas is commonly referred to as Howell Road. In addition, a portion of that highway in Macomb County already is designated as the William P. Rosso Highway. While the bill would exempt that section from being renamed, attaching another name to M-59 could confound drivers and cause

S.B. 564 (1-4-90)

traffic hazards.

**Opposing Argument**

The bill would require the Transportation Department to erect markers on the highway to indicate its new name. Department officials prefer to keep the number of road signs to a minimum in an effort to avoid traffic hazards and decrease the possibility of being sued by drivers who run into the signs.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

**A8990\S564A**

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.