



Romney Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

PAUL B. HENRY FREEWAY

House Bill 5851 as introduced First Analysis (5-21-98)

Sponsor: Rep. William Byl
Committee: Transportation

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Paul B. Henry served with great distinction in the Michigan House of Representatives (1979-82), the Michigan Senate (1983-84), and the United States Congress (1985-1993). To recognize his career of public service which spanned three decades--beginning in 1963 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia and Ethiopia, and ending with his untimely death at age 51 in 1993--the citizens of Kent and Ottawa Counties would like to honor Paul Henry by naming a portion of a state highway after him.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

House Bill 5851 would create a new act to designate highway M-6 in Kent and Ottawa counties as the Paul B. Henry freeway. The bill would require the state transportation department to provide suitable markers on the portion of highway so-named.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Paul B. Henry of Grand Rapids was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 9, 1942. He earned his B.A. from Wheaton College in Illinois, and his M.A. (1968) and Ph.D. (1970) from Duke University in North Carolina. Dr. Henry was married to Karen B. Henry and had three children, Kara, Jordan, and Megan. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia and Ethiopia from 1963-65. He was a legislative assistant to Congressman John B. Anderson and acting director of the House Republican Conference of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1968-69. Dr. Henry was an instructor in political science at Duke University from 1969-70, and professor of political science at Calvin College from 1970-78. He was the author of several books and articles. He was a member of the Michigan State Board of Education from 1975-78.

Paul Henry served as state representative from the 91st district, and as assistant Republican floor leader from 1979-82. He served as state senator from the 32nd district, and as chairman of the Committee on

Education and Health, and vice chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs from 1983-84. Mr. Henry was a member of the United States House of Representatives serving the 5th District of Michigan from 1985-1993. He was founding member of the Grace Caucus, a bi-partisan group of senators and representatives seeking implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force Report on Waste in Government Spending. Congressman Henry was a member of the Education and Labor Committee, the Science, Space and Technology Committee, the Republican Policy Committee, the Select Committee on Aging, and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Recognized as a "rising star" of Congress by the prestigious *National Journal*, Henry championed issues that have topped America's list of concerns in the 1990s. He backed key environmental legislation aimed at tackling the U.S. air, water, and solid waste pollution crisis. Most notably, he is the sponsor of the national "bottle bill", which would establish a nationwide refund on beverage containers. Having served four years on the State Board of Education, Henry considered education to be the key to the country's future. He authored the College Savings Bond program, as well as accountability reforms in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He also introduced legislation to bring about reforms in major college athletics programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal information is not available.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

This tribute to Congressman Henry is particularly fitting since, in 1991, Paul Henry was instrumental in the effort to secure initial funding for the South Belt Freeway project, a project that will benefit residents

for decades to come. Construction of the freeway began in November 1997 and is divided into three phases. The first phase includes I-96 to M-37 and should take five years. The second phase includes the area from M-37 to U.S. 131, and phase three connects the South Beltline from U.S. 131 to I-196. It will connect I-96 on the east to I-196 on the west by cutting through the southern portion of Kent County.

POSITIONS:

There are no positions on the bill.

Analyst: J. Hunault

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.