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Senate Bill 921 (as enacted)
Sponsor: Senator Ed McBroom
Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
House Committee: Transportation
Ways and Means

PUBLIC ACT 325 of 2020

Date Completed: 2-4-21

CONTENT

The bill amended the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate certain roadways as the "Ben Lauren and Don Riling Memorial Highway", the "Julie Plawecki Memorial Highway", and the "Senator Tom Casperson Memorial Bridge".

Specifically, the bill designates the portion of Highway M-35 in Forsyth Township beginning at the northern township limit of Turin Township extending northwest to the southern township limit of Richmond Township as the "Ben Lauren and Don Riling Memorial Highway". The bill designates the portion of Highway US-24 in Wayne County beginning at the intersection with M-153 and extending north to the intersection with Warren Avenue as the "Julie Plawecki Memorial Highway".

In addition, the bill designates the bridge on Highway US-2 over the Escanaba River in Delta County as the "Senator Tom Casperson Memorial Bridge".

The bill took effect December 29, 2020.

MCL 250.1008c

BACKGROUND

Benjamin Lauren was a captain at the Forsyth Township Fire Department, a volunteer department. On March 13, 2020, he was injured fatally while fighting a structure fire. Don Riling was a professional firefighter with the United States Air Force and a firefighter with the Forsyth Township Fire Department. On March 19, 1988, he died while fighting a fire in Forsyth Township.

Representative Julie Plawecki was a resident of Dearborn Heights for 20 years and worked in the area as a medical technologist and teacher before being elected as a State Representative for Michigan's 11th House District in 2014. On June 25, 2016, Representative Plawecki died of a heart attack while hiking in Oregon.

Senator Tom Casperson was born in Escanaba and worked for his family's log trucking business for 25 years before taking ownership of the company for 10 years. In 2002, he was elected as a State Representative for Michigan's 108th House District. He served in that capacity until he was elected to the Michigan Senate in 2011, serving in the 38th Senate District until 2018. On November 29, 2020, Senator Casperson died from lung cancer.

Legislative Analyst: Tyler VanHuyse

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill will have no fiscal impact on State or local government. The Act specifies that the Department of Transportation may provide for the erection and maintenance of markers designating the name of a highway only when sufficient private funds are available to cover the costs of erecting and maintaining those markers. As such, private funds will cover the cost of the renaming, and no State funds will be used.

Fiscal Analyst: Michael Siracuse

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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.