



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 41 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator John N. Damoose
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of Highway M-22 in Leelanau County beginning at the intersection of Highway M-22 and North Stallman Road and continuing north to the intersection of Highway M-22 and North Putnam Road as the "Company K Indian Veterans 1st Michigan Sharpshooters Civil War Memorial Highway".

Proposed MCL 250.1108

BRIEF RATIONALE

In 1836, 139 Native American men joined Company K, a regiment that fought for the Union during the American Civil War. Testimony before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure indicates that Company K participated in many of the Civil War's most grueling battles, including the Battle of Gettysburg, the Battle of the Wilderness, and the Siege of Petersburg. Several Company K men were captured and held in Confederate prisoner-of-war camps, and many members died fighting in service to their country, which discriminated against them during their lifetime.¹ Company K serves as an important part of Michigan's past and present, as descendants of Company K soldiers still reside in Leelanau County. A monument in their honor stands on the Capitol Building's lawn, and it has been further suggested that the men of Company K be memorialized in Leelanau County.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

The bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 30 from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Senate Bill 30 passed the Senate and was referred to the House but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government. Pursuant to the Act, private donations are required to erect and maintain special naming markers.

Date Completed: 2-12-25

Fiscal Analyst: Bobby Canell

¹ After the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830, an estimated 100,000 Native Americans were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands and relocated to territories beyond the Mississippi River. Native Americans did not receive United States citizenship until the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, 59 years after the end of the Civil War (1862-1865).