

Legislative Analysis



TROOPER JAMES E. BOLAND MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 4046 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. John R. Roth
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
Complete to 3-10-25

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

(Enacted as Public Act 8 of 2025)

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4046 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate highway US-31 in Grand Traverse County, from Three Mile Road to Bunker Hill Road, as the “Trooper James E. Boland Memorial Highway.”

Proposed MCL 250.1011d

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony, the *Detroit Free Press*, and the Officer Down Memorial page, Trooper James E. Boland was born on January 11, 1945, to Gilbert and Arletta Peterson Boland. He grew up in the Owosso/Corunna area and graduated from Corunna High School in 1963.

Boland worked for the Owosso Police Department before enrolling in the Michigan State Police academy and joining the State Police force in 1967. After the death of his brother in 1980, Trooper Boland transferred to the Owosso State Police post to be closer to his family. He was a community relations officer at the Owosso post, where he continued to serve his community for 20 years.

In July 1987, Trooper Boland was among 250 state troopers assigned to a security detail in Traverse City for the National Governor’s Conference being held at the nearby Grand Traverse Resort. On Saturday, July 25, Trooper Bland was assigned to direct traffic at the intersection of East Front Street (US-31/M-72) and Barlow Street. Thousands of Michigan residents who gathered to enjoy the evening festivities began to leave the downtown area to return home. In the early morning hours of July 26, Trooper Boland bent to light a caution flare near the middle of the intersection and was struck by a 1975 Buick Century traveling at a high rate of speed. The driver of the car, arrested half a mile from the scene, was reported to have been drinking. Although CPR and other first aid measures were provided at the scene by local police officers, Trooper Boland died of his injuries at 12:45 a.m. He was 42 years old.

Designating a portion of highway US-31 in Grand Traverse County would be an appropriate way to recognize and honor Trooper James E. Boland’s sacrifice and his service to his community and the citizens 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 Department of State Police indicated support for the bill. (2-25-25)

The Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (2-25-25)

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