

Legislative Analysis



SPC DAVID ANTHONY WILKEY JR. MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4351 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Prestin

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to 11-12-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4351 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate highway US-41 in Menominee County, from US-2 to County Road 374, as the "SPC David Anthony Wilkey Jr. Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.1087

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony, the Fallen Military Times, and media reports, David Anthony Wilkey, Jr. was born on July 5, 1984, to David A. Wilkey Sr., and Cindy Wilkey in Norway, Michigan. He grew up in Wilson, in Harris Township, where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling, sports, repairing items, shopping and poetry. David also worked with his father at Plastic Components, Inc., for several years. As a teenager, he moved to Elkhart, Indiana, where he attended Jintown High School, graduating in 2003.

After graduation, David Wilkey, Jr. enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based out of Fort Riley, Kansas. He was then deployed to Iraq to serve during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On June 17, 2007, while serving in Baghdad, he sustained wounds when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. He died of his wounds the next day. He was 22 years old. SPC David Anthony Wilkey, Jr. received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Designating a portion of US-41 in Menominee County to the memory of SPC David Anthony Wilkey, Jr. would be an appropriate way to recognize and honor his dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice to the citizens of this state and our nation.

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 Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (10-21-25)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

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