



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 291*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

[Click here for H.B. 291's Fiscal Note](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Transportation

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Callender and Troy

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Designates and amends multiple highways and bridges.
- Creates eight specialty license plates.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Memorial highways and bridges

The bill designates the following highways and bridges. It authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highways and bridges indicating their names.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Ohio Medal of Honor Highway" ¹	All of U.S. Route 20, as it extends across the northern portion of Ohio	The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest medal for valor in combat that can be awarded to members of the armed forces. ²

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Transportation Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5533.04. The designation is in addition to the current designation of U.S. Route 20 as the "General McPherson Highway."

² See also <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/history.html>.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Crooksville Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti Memorial Highway" ³	The northbound and southbound lanes of State Route (SR) 93 between Ceramic Way and West Main Street, in Perry County	Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti died in the line of duty on February 5, 1998. Both men were trapped in the basement of a house where they were attempting to put out a fire. Firefighter Theisen died of asphyxiation and burns and Firefighter Carletti died of a crushing injury.
"Deputy Bill Brewer Memorial Highway" ⁴	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 32, between the eastern and western border of Batavia Township, in Clermont County	On February 2, 2019, Clermont County Deputy Bill Brewer was shot and killed during a standoff with a gunman at a Pierce Township apartment complex.
"Officer Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway" ⁵	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-275 between the intersection of that route and Winton Road and the intersection of that route and I-75, in Hamilton County	Officer Kaia L. Grant was killed in the line of duty on March 21, 2020, when she was intentionally struck by the vehicle of the person she was pursuing. She served with the Springdale Police Department for eight years.
"Deputy Sheriff Emil Kleinwaechter Memorial Highway" ⁶	The portion of U.S. Route (USR) 50, running in a westerly and easterly direction, commencing at the intersection of that route and Newtown Road and extending to the intersection of that route and Elm Road, in Hamilton County	Deputy Kleinwaechter was a U.S. Army veteran and served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He was struck and killed by a vehicle while directing traffic around the scene of a serious

³ R.C. 5534.409.

⁴ R.C. 5534.414.

⁵ R.C. 5534.415.

⁶ R.C. 5534.416.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		accident on Wooster Pike, east of Newtown Road on July 16, 1962.
"Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender and Trooper Randy Bender Memorial Highway" ⁷	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 309, between the intersection of that route and Marion-Williamsport Road West and the intersection of that route and Holland Road, in Marion County	Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender was killed on July 2, 1973, in an automobile accident while he was en route to set up a roadblock (because of an escape from a nearby jail). His son, Trooper Randy Bender, was also killed in the line of duty. Trooper Bender died on November 20, 1982, after succumbing to the injuries he sustained from being struck by a tractor trailer while he was directing traffic in a construction zone.
"Officer Anthony Dia Memorial Highway" ⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184, between mile marker six and mile marker seven, in Lucas County	Officer Anthony Dia, 26 years old, was killed in the line of duty while responding to a disturbance at a store on July 4, 2020. He served with the Toledo Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Mercy Health Police Department for two years.
"Officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert Memorial Highway" ⁹	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-71 between Second Street and Martin Luther King Drive, in Hamilton County	Cincinnati police officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert were killed in the line of duty on March 6, 1979. Officer Bennington was a nine and a half year

⁷ R.C. 5534.418.

⁸ R.C. 5534.419.

⁹ R.C. 5534.431.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		veteran of the Cincinnati Police Department, and Officer Seiffert served with the Department for eight years.
"Officer Brandon Stalker Memorial Highway" ¹⁰	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184 between mile marker four and five, in Lucas County	Police Officer Brandon Stalker served with the Toledo Police Department and was shot and killed on January 18, 2021, as a result of a shooting involving an arson suspect. Officer Stalker had served with the Department for two and a half years.
"Officer Ciera N. Greene Memorial Highway" ¹¹	The portion of SR 123, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction between the intersection of that route and I-71 and the eastern border of the municipal corporation of Lebanon, in Warren County	Officer Ciera N. Greene was a Warren County corrections officer who died on November 15, 2014, after her car ran off the road and hit a utility pole. The cause of the accident is unknown.
"Army Sergeant Patrick Ryan Carroll Memorial Highway" ¹²	The portion of SR 162, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between Fitchville and the boundary of the municipal corporation of New London, in Huron County	Army Sergeant Patrick Ryan Carroll died on February 7, 2011, in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 319 th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.432.

¹¹ R.C. 5534.433.

¹² R.C. 5534.603.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"SSG Kyle R. McKee Memorial Highway" ¹³	The portion of SR 86, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between the eastern and western border of Leroy Township in Lake County	SSG Kyle R. McKee was a helicopter repairer and a member of the Multinational Force and Observers, a peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in the Sinai Peninsula. He died on November 12, 2020 in a helicopter crash.
"Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd Memorial Highway" ¹⁴	The portion of County Road (CR) 321, running in an easterly and westerly direction, one-half mile to the east and west of the intersection of that road and Muffly Avenue SW, in Stark County	U.S. Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd of Navarre, Ohio, died on February 14, 1951, at Hofong Prisoner of War camp (also known as Pukchin-Tarigol) during the Korean War. His remains were returned to Ohio in 2019.
"Sgt. Thomas Cole Walker Memorial Bridge" ¹⁵	The bridge spanning West Branch Conneaut Creek that is part of SR 7 and that is located in the municipal corporation of Conneaut, in Ashtabula County	Army Sergeant Thomas Cole Walker, of Conneaut, passed away on October 20, 2019, in a training accident at Fort Stewart, Georgia.
"Air Force 2 nd Lt. William Vaughan Memorial Bridge" ¹⁶	The bridge spanning I-80, located in Mahoning County and being a part of the highway known as SR 46	William Vaughan was a radio operator of a volunteer bomber crew which undertook an important and dangerous photo-mapping mission over the heavily defended enemy Buka airfield on the island of Bougainville during WWII.

¹³ R.C. 5534.604.

¹⁴ R.C. 5534.605.

¹⁵ R.C. 5534.606.

¹⁶ R.C. 5534.816.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action on this mission.
"Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁷	The portion of USR 52 running in an easterly and westerly direction across the entire southern portion of Adams County	N/A
"CPL Benjamin C. Dillon, RLTW, Memorial Highway" ¹⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-76 between mile marker number 44 and mile marker number 45, in Portage County	CPL Benjamin C. Dillon was killed in action on October 7, 2007, while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
"Lake Township Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁹	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 795 between Tracy Road and North Fostoria Road, located in Lake Township in Wood County	N/A
"SGT Joseph P. Collette Memorial Highway" ²⁰	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 158, between the intersection of that route and Ginder Road Northwest and the intersection of that route and Carroll Eastern Road Northwest, in Fairfield County	Sergeant Joseph P. Collette died from wounds sustained in combat operations in Afghanistan on March 22, 2019. He earned, among other awards and decorations, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, and the Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge.
"SFC Ron Rosser Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Highway" ²¹	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-70, between mile marker 132 and 133, in Licking County	SFC Ron Rosser earned the Medal of Honor while serving in the 38 th Infantry Regiment of the 2 nd Infantry

¹⁷ R.C. 5534.819.

¹⁸ R.C. 5534.828.

¹⁹ R.C. 5534.837.

²⁰ R.C. 5534.838.

²¹ R.C. 5534.841.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		<p>Division during the Korean War. In January of 1952, Rosser and his regiment were dispatched to capture an enemy-occupied hill. Fierce enemy resistance caused heavy casualties. After being reduced to 35 men from the initial 170 sent out, the party was ordered to make one more attempt to take the hill. Rosser rallied the remaining men and charged the hill. Despite the heavy fire, Rosser attacked the enemy position three times, killed at least 13 enemy soldiers, and carried several men to safety.</p>
<p>“U.S. Army Specialist Christian D. Ward Memorial Highway”²²</p>	<p>The portion of SR 60, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between the intersection of that route and CR 121 and the intersection of that route and CR 87, in Washington County</p>	<p>U.S. Army Specialist Christian Ward joined the Army in 2015 and was stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado. While in the Army, he earned the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Aviation Badge. Specialist Ward was killed in a motorcycle accident on June 28, 2019, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.</p>
<p>“Joseph K. Vrabel ‘Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame’ Memorial Highway”²³</p>	<p>The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 224 in the municipal corporation of Poland, in Mahoning County</p>	<p>Joseph K. Vrabel was a Korean War veteran, a Post Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a Life</p>

²² R.C. 5534.872.

²³ R.C. 5534.897.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Member of the American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15. He died on January 21, 2009, and was posthumously honored as a 2013 inductee to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.
"PFC Steven D. Smith Memorial Highway" ²⁴	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 13, between the northern border of Bellville and the southern border of Mansfield, in Richland County	PFC Steven D. Smith served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was killed in action on April 15, 1968.
"Steven Lowell Cook Memorial Highway" ²⁵	The portion of SR 800, running in a northerly and southerly direction, between the intersection of that route and Ross Kennon Road and the intersection of that route and Shannon Road, in Belmont County	Steven Lowell Cook was a Barnesville construction worker who was struck and killed by a driver on September 30, 2017, while working in a construction zone on I-70. He previously worked for R&F Coal Company and R&R Trucking.
"SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Memorial Highway" ²⁶	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 725, between South Union Road and Soldiers Home Road, in Montgomery County	SGT Gary Lee McKiddy served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was killed in action on May 6, 1970. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Memorial highway name change

The bill changes the name of the "First Lt. Ashley White-Stumpf Memorial Highway" in Marlboro Township to the "First Lt. Ashley White Memorial Highway."²⁷

²⁴ R.C. 5534.899.

²⁵ R.C. 5534.912.

²⁶ R.C. 5534.923.

²⁷ R.C. 5533.626.

Specialty license plates

The bill creates eight new specialty license plates. The plates are available to the general public, but require a person to pay an annual contribution when the plate is issued and renewed. The contributions are deposited into the existing License Plate Contribution Fund and later disbursed to the appropriate organizations that receive the contributions. Those organizations work with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to determine the appropriate logo and words that are displayed on the plates.

In addition to the contribution, the person receiving the specialty license plate must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The purpose of the BMV fee is to compensate the BMV for the additional services required to issue each specialty license plate. The BMV fee is deposited into the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund. All other registration requirements apply to the new plates. The new plates may be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The new specialty license plates created by the bill are set forth in the following table, which includes a description of each:

Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁸
“The Ohio Aerospace Institute” license plate ²⁹	The Ohio Aerospace Institute	\$25	To facilitate student internships in aerospace and educational programming.
“Marshall University” license plate ³⁰	Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia	\$30	For purposes of awarding grants or scholarships to residents of Ohio who attend the University.
“University of Alabama” license plate ³¹	University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama	\$30	For purposes of awarding grants or scholarships to residents of Ohio who attend the University.

²⁸ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁹ R.C. 4503.507.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.516.

³¹ R.C. 4503.517.

Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁸
“On Our Sleeves” license plate ³²	Nationwide Children’s Hospital	\$20	For the “On Our Sleeves” Campaign (a national movement to break stigmas around children’s mental health. The campaign provides free mental health educational resources across the country to educate families, empower advocates, and connect families to local resources). ³³
“Keep Ohio Beautiful” license plate ³⁴	Keep Ohio Beautiful, Inc.	\$20	Towards the organization’s mission of empowering Ohio communities to take greater responsibility for improving the local environment through litter prevention, beautification, community greening, waste reduction, and recycling.
“Circleville Pumpkin Show” license plate ³⁵	Circleville Pumpkin Show, Inc.	\$25	To promote good will surrounding the Circleville Pumpkin Show as a nonprofit annual event.
“Loyal Order of the Moose” license plate ³⁶	The Ohio Chapter of the Loyal Order of the Moose	\$20	No purpose specified for the contributions.
“Little Brown Jug” license plate ³⁷	Little Brown Jug Society	\$20	To assist the Society in maintaining, promulgating, and operating the Little Brown Jug as part of Ohio’s rich harness racing history.

³² R.C. 4503.518.

³³ See also <https://www.onoursleeves.org/>.

³⁴ R.C. 4503.578.

³⁵ R.C. 4503.597.

³⁶ R.C. 4503.703.

³⁷ R.C. 4503.755.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-05-21
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	06-23-21
Passed House (95-0)	06-24-21
Reported, S. Transportation	---
