

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: January 7, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Building Designations

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Caridi</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The Committee Substitute would designate the portion of the Department of Transportation District 5 Headquarters Building completed on March 23, 1993 in Deland as the “Ben G. Watts Building” and direct the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.

The Committee Substitute would designate State bridge 140067 in Pasco County as the “Father Felix Ullrich Bridge” and direct the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.

II. Present Situation:

Section 267.062, F.S., provides that a state building may not be named after a living person unless specifically provided by law. Generally, state facilities are named to honor persons, whether living or deceased, whose contributions to the state have been significant.

During the 23 years Ben G. Watts served in the Florida Department of Transportation, he held the positions of Director of Production, District Secretary of District 5, and from 1989-1997, was Secretary of the department.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is created in s. 20.23, F.S., to oversee the transportation needs of the state. The department, which is decentralized, is headed by a Secretary appointed by the Governor. The department is divided into eight districts, including a turnpike district, each of which is headed by a district secretary. By law, district headquarters are located in the following counties: Broward, Columbia, Dade, Hillsborough, Leon, Polk, Volusia, and Washington.

According to the department, District 5 includes Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia counties. The department reports that the building to be designated the "Ben G. Watts Building" is an addition to the District 5 Office in Deland, located at 719 South Woodland Boulevard. The original building was built in 1939-1940 and is currently named for former Florida Governor Shultz. This four story addition is 150,000 square feet and houses over 450 employees of the department.

Father Felix Ullrich founded Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Pasco County in 1919 and became its first resident priest in 1922.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The addition to the DOT headquarters building for District 5, completed on March 23, 1993, located at 719 South Woodland Boulevard in Deland, would be designated as the "Ben G. Watts Building." The department would erect suitable markers.

State bridge 140067 located on State Road 54 in Pasco County will be designated "Father Felix Ullrich Bridge." The department would erect suitable markers.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The department estimates expenses of \$3,500 dollars to erect markers designating its District 5 headquarters building as the “Ben G. Watts Building.”

The department estimates expenses of \$500 dollars to erect markers designating State bridge 140067 as the “Father Felix Ullrich Bridge.”

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None

VII. Related Issues:

None

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
