

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB 656
 SPONSOR: Senator Cowin
 SUBJECT: Highway Designations
 DATE: January 8, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Davis	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill designates the portion of State Road 19 in Lake County from the northern county boundary to U. S. Highway 441 as the “Private Robert M. McTureous, Jr., U. S. M. C., Medal of Honor Memorial Highway.” In addition, this bill designates the St. Johns River Bridge on I-4 at the Seminole/Volusia County line as the “St. Johns River Veterans Memorial Bridge.” Also, this bill directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides: (1) For legislative designations of transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility, and may not be construed to require any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes; (2) When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, FDOT is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation, and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility; and (3) The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, resolutions supporting the designations must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of the markers.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill designates the portion of State Road 19 in Lake County from the northern county boundary to U. S. Highway 441 as the “Private Robert M. McTureous, Jr., U. S. M. C., Medal of Honor Memorial Highway.” In addition, this bill designates the St. Johns River Bridge on I-4 at

the Seminole/Volusia County line as the “St. Johns River Veterans Memorial Bridge.” Also, this bill directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers.

Robert Miller McTureous, Jr. was born in Altoona, Florida on March 26, 1924. After graduating high school and completing one year of college, he attempted to enlist, but was rejected twice due to a medical condition. Mr. McTureous got a job in order to raise enough money to have an operation to correct his disability. Two operations were necessary and he underwent them always with the view of getting into the service when he was able. After being examined again in 1944, he was found fit and his induction into the Marine Corps followed on August 31. Private McTureous served in the United States Marine Corps as a member of the “H” Company, Third Battalion, 29th Marines of the Sixth Marine Division.

Private McTureous died on June 11, 1945, four days after his heroic actions saved the lives of wounded men in his company pinned down by enemy machine-gun fire during a battle in Okinawa, two months before World War II ended in the Pacific. He charged a Japanese machine gun nest with a shirt full of hand grenades to divert enemy fire from American medics trying to pull wounded marines to safety and was fatally wounded. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in the line of duty and was the first and only Lake County Veteran to be awarded the medal during World War II.

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 FDOT will incur costs of approximately \$1,600 (from the State Transportation Trust Fund) for erecting markers for the designations. This is based on the assumption 4 markers will be erected at a cost of \$400 per marker. The department will also have to

pay the recurring cost of maintaining these signs over time, and for future replacement of the signs as necessary.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

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