

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 1104

(Harford County Senators, *et al.*)

Finance

Environment and Transportation

Transportation - Highways - Heroes Highway

This emergency bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to dedicate the portion of Maryland Route 924 (Emmorton Road) between the intersection of Maryland Route 24 and Maryland Route 924 and the intersection of Singer Road and Maryland Route 924 as “Heroes Highway.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Transportation Commission (MTC) must consider and recommend any request for the dedication of transportation facilities in memory or honor of individuals or groups of significance to the State. MTC may consider and recommend approval of those requests for dedications that are made for (1) a distinguished individual who is deceased or retired from public or community service and who is widely recognized and renowned for service that has been characterized by exceptional achievement (*i.e.*, Governor Ritchie); (2) groups or associations with special relevance for Maryland (*i.e.*, Maryland Veterans); or (3) aspects of life or areas that are unique to Maryland (*i.e.*, “Chesapeake”).

When considering a dedication request, MTC must consider whether the request meets highway safety requirements and whether the dedication is for (1) a distinguished individual who is recently deceased or retired from public or community service and who is widely recognized and renowned for service that has been characterized by exceptional service or (2) an individual who sacrificed his or her well-being and life in service to our nation, State, and/or communities.

Upon receiving direction, either from the Secretary of Transportation or as the result of enacted legislation, SHA or the Maryland Transportation Authority is required to dedicate a facility.

Chapter 53 of 2015 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to establish a process that allows a member of the General Assembly, another elected official, or any member of the general public to request that MDOT dedicate a bridge or other appropriate structure to (1) a deceased member of the U.S. Armed Forces whose surviving spouse, parent, or next of kin is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star memorializing that the member was killed in action or (2) a firefighter, a law enforcement officer, or another emergency responder who died in the line of duty.

Background: On February 10, 2016, Harford County senior deputies Patrick Dailey and Mark Logsdon were shot to death near Emmorton Road in Abingdon, Maryland. The men are the first Harford County Sheriff's Office deputies to be shot and killed in the line of duty since 1899.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1624 (Delegate Reilly, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, WBAL-TV, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2016
kb/lgc

Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510