
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview

The bill requires the Director of Transportation to designate portions of state highways, county roads, township roads, or municipal streets or highways in honor of each state highway patrol trooper, county sheriff or deputy sheriff, township constable or police officer, or municipal police officer that is or has been killed in the line of duty. In these circumstances, the Director of Transportation is to consult with the appropriate official, such as the Director of Public Safety and the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol, the county sheriff, municipal police chief, or township police chief. Each designated portion of roadway may not exceed 20 miles in length. Portions of the road to be designated that already have a designation under current law would carry both names. When a portion of a road receives a designation, the Director of Transportation may erect suitable markers along the road to indicate its name.

Fiscal effects

As a result of the new process in the bill, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may incur additional costs to install suitable plaques or signs along the designated portions of road. Current costs to manufacture, install, and maintain a single set of memorial plaques or markers at one location are estimated to be a few hundred dollars, depending on the size of the marker(s), equipment and materials needed to install them, and the frequency of maintenance. From 1995 to the present, 47 law enforcement officers have been killed feloniously or accidentally.¹ Since that time, the number of officers killed annually has ranged from zero to six.

When a highway is designated as a memorial, ODOT policy is to first install a memorial plaque in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location.² If this is not practical, a marker is installed along the highway instead. Two plaques or two markers are usually installed, one in each direction at each location. However, if ODOT chooses not to install the plaques or markers, the municipality, county, or township may choose to erect memorial plaques or signs along the designated portions of road within their boundaries and would incur the expense for doing so.

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¹ Data from 1995 through 2006 derived from Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report. Data for 2007 and 2008 was obtained from The Officer Down Memorial Page, a web site that honors law enforcement officials that have been killed in the line of duty, at <http://www.odmp.org>.

² Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 2005 Edition.