

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 91 Transportation Facility Designations

SPONSOR(S): Clemons, Mooney, and others

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. **BILLS:** CS/SB 84

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Transportation & Modals Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N	Walker	Hinshelwood
2) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Hicks	Davis
3) Infrastructure Strategies Committee	22 Y, 0 N	Walker	Harrington

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

State law authorizes legislative designations of transportation facilities, such as bridges, interchanges, or portions of roads, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not change the official names of the facilities and do not require local governments and private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone system listings to account for the designations. The Department of Transportation (DOT) may not erect markers for a designation unless the appropriate city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation.

The bill designates the “Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway” in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, St. Johns, Duval, and Nassau counties. The bill also directs DOT to erect suitable markers for the designation by August 30, 2024.

The bill will have an insignificant negative fiscal impact to the State Transportation Trust Fund associated with erecting suitable markers for the designation. The cost can be absorbed within DOT’s existing resources.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Transportation Facility Designations

Under current law, the Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge, interchange, or portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not officially change the existing names of the facilities and do not require local governments or private entities to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone-number system listings to account for the designations.¹

Regarding the naming of state buildings and other facilities, state law provides that except as specifically provided by law, state buildings, roads, bridges, parks, recreational complexes, and other similar facilities may not be named for a living person.²

Transportation Facility Markers

When the Legislature establishes transportation facility designations, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to place a marker at each terminus or intersection of the highway segment or bridge designated and may erect other markers it deems appropriate for the designated transportation facility.³ Markers may not be erected until the appropriate city or county commission passes a resolution in support of the particular designation. Additionally, if the designated facility is located in multiple cities or counties, each affected local government must pass a resolution in support of the designation before DOT can install the markers.⁴

Jimmy Buffett

Jimmy Buffett was a singer-songwriter whose recording career spanned more than fifty years and whose music often celebrated the culture of the Florida Keys.⁵ Some of his greatest hits include “Margaritaville,” “Come Monday,” and “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere.”⁶ In 1974, Jimmy Buffett released an album entitled “A1A” that included songs such as “A Pirate Looks at Forty” and “Nautical Wheelers.”⁷ In his album notes, Jimmy Buffett explained that “A1A is the beach access road that runs occasionally on and off U.S. 1. It can take you to some of the prettiest beaches in Florida east of St. Augustine, right through the middle of ‘Wrinkle City’, better known as Miami Beach, and ending suddenly 90 miles north of Havana and four blocks from my house.”⁸

Jimmy Buffett passed away on September 1, 2023.⁹

Effect of the Bill

The bill designates all of those portions of State Road A1A located in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, St. Johns, Duval, and Nassau counties as “Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway.”

The bill directs DOT to erect suitable markers for the designation by August 30, 2024.

¹ S. 334.071(1), F.S.

² S. 267.062(1), F.S.

³ S. 334.071(2), F.S.

⁴ S. 334.071(3), F.S.

⁵ Peter Mason, *Jimmy Buffett Obituary*, *The Guardian* (Sep. 4, 2023), <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2023/sep/04/jimmy-buffett-obituary> (last visited Feb. 8, 2024); JimmyBuffet.com, *James William Buffett Obituary*, <https://www.jimmybuffett.com/obituary> (last visited Feb. 8, 2024).

⁶ Peter Mason, *supra* note 5.

⁷ Buffett World, *A1A*, <https://buffettworld.com/albums/a1a/> (last visited Feb. 8, 2024).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ JimmyBuffet.com, *supra* note 5s.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Designates “Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway”; directs DOT to erect suitable markers by August 30, 2024.

Section 2: Provides that the bill is effective upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOT estimates a cost of \$1,800 per designation for the appropriate markers, which provides for two signs per designation at \$900 per sign.¹⁰ Therefore, the bill has an estimated negative fiscal impact of \$1,800 to the State Transportation Trust Fund. However, this cost can be absorbed within existing DOT resources.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

¹⁰ Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Transportation, FW: road designation sign costs, (Oct. 10, 2023).

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.