

HCS SB 840 -- HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

SPONSOR: Stouffer (St. Onge)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the highway and bridge designation process. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Specifies that a person requesting a highway or bridge designation must submit the proper documents and fees to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight no later than November 1 prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly;
- (2) Clarifies that the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight will be responsible for approving or denying highway designations;
- (3) Specifies that the signs erected must be maintained for a 20-year period; and after that time, the signs will be subject to removal unless the sponsoring organization or person files another application to retain the designation;
- (4) Specifies that the fee for constructing and maintaining the signs will not exceed the cost of constructing and maintaining each sign. Currently, the fees are \$400 and \$600 respectively;
- (5) Prohibits a bridge or portion of a highway from being named after more than one person, event, place, or organization. Each person, event, place, or organization will only be eligible for one bridge or highway designation;
- (6) Directs the highway designation sign fees to be deposited into the Road Fund instead of the Department of Transportation Bridge and Highway Sign Fund; and
- (7) Allows the Highways and Transportation Commission to convey or exchange its interest in land or leasehold for the property's approximate fair market value. The commission, at its discretion, will also be allowed to convey at no cost or exchange its interest in any land or leasehold that is no longer necessary for its use to any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will streamline the procedure for designating highways and bridges and provide for

the billing at the actual costs of signage.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Stouffer; and Department of Transportation.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst