

JULIE PLAWECKI MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 4261 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Jewell Jones

1st Committee: Transportation

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 9-3-19

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4261 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of highway US-24 in Wayne County beginning at the intersection with M-153 and extending north to the intersection with Warren Avenue as the “Julie Plawcki Memorial Highway.” (Highway US-24 in Wayne County is currently designated the “10th Mountain Division Memorial Highway.” The bill would exclude the portion of US-24 between M-153 and Warren Avenue from this designation.)

The bill would take effect 90 days after being enacted into law.

MCL 250.1092 and proposed MCL 250. 1092a

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Representative Julie Plawcki, a first-term legislator from Dearborn Heights elected in 2014, was serving in the House of Representatives when she died from an apparent heart attack on June 25, 2016, while hiking with family in Oregon.

According to committee testimony and news reports, before beginning her political career, Representative Plawcki spent a decade teaching elementary school secondary level math, science, and religion and coached the Science Olympian team at St. Robert Bellarmine School in Redford. Representative Plawcki received her bachelor’s degree from Oakland University and her professional teaching certificate from the University of Michigan- Dearborn. She was also a medical technologist.

Representative Plawcki was a passionate advocate for preserving our Great Lakes and waterways. During her time in the legislature, she served on two House committees, Energy Policy and Natural Resources. She sponsored bills on environmental protection, health insurance, school fund and campaign finance. Her community advocacy inspired caucus members to celebrate a day of service each year at community food banks, county river cleanups, and neighborhood summer programs that benefit school-aged children in need. She spent her career serving her community as an advocate, a teacher, and a state representative.

Dedicating a portion of US-24 in Wayne County would be an appropriate way to honor her legacy, her devotion to education, and her commitment to serving the citizens of her community and this state.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway only “when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the cost of erecting and maintaining those markers.” As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill.
(6-18-19)

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