

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8003

As of February 6, 2025

Brief Description: Requesting the transportation commission to designate a section of Interstate 82 as the Washington state patrol trooper Charles Frank Noble, Jr. memorial highway.

Sponsors: Senators Torres, Lovick, Dozier, Nobles and Wellman.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/06/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requests the Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to designate a section of Interstate 82 in Zillah as the Washington State Patrol Trooper Charles Frank Noble, Jr. Memorial Highway.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Daniel Masterson (786-7454)

Background: Naming Highways. The Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for naming state transportation facilities, including highways and bridges. The Commission naming policy states "a naming is done in a thorough and deliberative manner to honor and institute an enduring memory of a person or group of people who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the state or nation and with the widespread support of the people from the area in which the facility is located."

The naming process can be initiated by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), state and local governmental entities, citizen organizations, or an individual providing sufficient evidence to the Commission indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal. Alternatively, the Legislature may pass a joint memorial requesting a facility be named, at which point the Commission will hold a public hearing to

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allow public input. After the Commission takes final action, WSDOT designs and installs the appropriate signs.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Charles Frank Noble, Jr. Charles Frank Noble, Jr. started his career with the Washington State Patrol on November 4, 1957 as a driver's license examiner in Vancouver and graduated with the 27th Trooper Basic Training Class and was commissioned in April 21, 1958. He was fatally shot during a traffic stop on Highway 12 in Zillah on February 5, 1972.

Summary of Bill: The Legislature requests the Commission commence proceedings to designate the section of Interstate 82 that traverses Yakima County from milepost 54 to 50 as the Washington State Patrol Trooper Charles Frank Noble, Jr. memorial highway.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: At the time of his death during a traffic stop, Trooper Noble had served with dedication for 14 years in the Washington State Patrol. This act of recognition would hold significant meaning for Trooper Noble's family, the Washington State Patrol and the surrounding community. Yesterday, February 5th marked the 53rd anniversary of our loss of Trooper Noble. Trooper Noble was the Washington State Patrol's 13th loss out of our 33 fallen heroes since 1921. Frank was only 42 years old at the time of his death. Frank served in the United States Navy, where he served in the Korean War. We remember Frank Noble as a war veteran, a husband, a father, a son and a dedicated public servant. He is a hero to all of us.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Nikki Torres, Prime Sponsor; John Batiste, Washington State Patrol.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.