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Committee Policy on: RESOLUTIONS NAMING HIGHWAY OR STRUCTURES

Recommended Policy: Resolutions proposing to name or designate state highways or highway structures should meet the following specific minimum criteria:

- a) Any person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway is located;
- b) The author or a co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named;
- c) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus;
- d) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation; and,
- e) When a resolution names a highway or structure in honor of an individual, the designee must have been deceased, except in the instance of elected officials, in which case they must be out of office.

Discussion: Each legislative session produces a number of Senate and Assembly resolutions proposing to name state highway segments or structures in honor of some individual, group or historical event. Over the years, an informal or ad hoc policy developed relative to the criteria for approval of such designations and memorials. No firm legislative guidelines existed, however, which in some instances resulted in inconsistency or controversy over a proposed designation.

The establishment of basic guidelines for naming highways and structures serves to mitigate questions or controversy in advance of legislative consideration of naming resolutions. It also serves the Committee's efficient consideration of such proposals and promotes fairness in determining whether a particular facility or segment is to be specially designated.