

Date of Hearing: August 15, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 137 (Wolk) – As Amended June 22, 2016

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** Police Officer Vilho Ahola Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** Designates a specified interchange on State Highway Route 101 (SR 101) in Sonoma County as the “Police Officer Vilho Ahola Memorial Interchange.” Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the life and accomplishments of Vilho Ahola, an officer with the Petaluma Police Department.
- 2) Designates the portion of SR 101 known as the “Old Redwood Highway Interchange,” located at the north end of the City of Petaluma as the “Police Officer Vilho Ahola Memorial Interchange.”
- 3) Requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

**EXISTING LAW:** Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** Vilho Ahola was a officer in the Petaluma Police Department. In 1969, Officer Ahola was shot in the neck in the line of duty and rendered quadriplegic. Officer Ahola continued to volunteer for the department until 1989 and continued to remain active in community activities, including the Police Athletic League until his death in 1998. The Sonoma County Coroner determined that Officer Ahola’s death was directly related to the injuries he sustained in the line of duty. This resolution designating an interchange on SR 101 in Petaluma in his honor acknowledges the contributions Officer Ahola made to his community.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Justin Behrens / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093