

Date of Hearing: July 10, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Jim Frazier, Chair
SCR 8 (Portantino) – As Amended July 5, 2017

SENATE VOTE: 35-1

SUBJECT: President Barack H. Obama Highway

SUMMARY: Designates a portion of State Highway 134 between State Highway 2 and Interstate 210 in Los Angeles County as the “President Barack H. Obama Highway.” Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the life and career of the 44th President of the United States, Barack H. Obama.
- 2) Designates a portion of State Highway 134 in Los Angeles County between State Highway 2 and Interstate 210 in Los Angeles County as the “President Barack H. Obama Highway.”

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways including 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: The author seeks to honor the nation’s 44th President Barack H. Obama, who spent time in California attending Occidental College in Los Angeles. According to the author, the President’s time in Occidental College played a major role in determining his future. He made his first political speech there on February 18, 1981, as part of a movement to persuade the Occidental Board of Trustees to divest the college of its investments in South Africa. Further he states that the President reflected on his time at the Occidental College, describing it as a “wonderful, small liberal arts college,” where “the professors were diverse and inspiring,” and “I ended up making some lifelong friendships there, and those first two years really helped me grow up.”

The resolution details President Obama’s middle class upbringing, being raised with help from his grandparents, and his early education in Indonesia and Hawaii. As noted, President Obama spent two years at Occidental college from 1979 to 1981. He received a B.A. in 1983 from Columbia University in New York and worked as a community organizer in Chicago. He later completed a law degree from Harvard University, having served as the first African American president of Harvard Law Review.

In 1996, Obama was elected to the Illinois State Senate, where he served until his election to the U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2004. On November 4, 2008, Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States. President Obama served two terms ending January 20, 2017. This resolution in his honor acknowledges his more than two decades of dedicated public service to the United States and the State of California.

Committee Comments: The Assembly Committee on Transportation adopted a policy for the naming of highways or structures for the 2017-18 Legislative Session on January 30, 2017. The

policy includes requiring that, “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.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Melissa White / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093