

Date of Hearing: July 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

ACR 96 (Rogers) – As Introduced June 11, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Assembly Member Patty Berg Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** Designates a specified portion of State Route 101 in the County of Humboldt as the Assembly Member Patty Berg Memorial Highway and requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the 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 determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** Patricia “Patty” Berg was born in Seattle, Washington, on June 6, 1942. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and social welfare. In 1970 she met her future husband, Patrick Murphy, who passed away in 1987.

Patty made significant contributions to the community throughout her lifetime. She worked for the County of Humboldt and the Humboldt Senior Resource Center, where she founded and served as the executive director for the Area Agency on Aging for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, receiving national honors and recognition for her work. She also testified before Congress and in Sacramento for policy changes to support older adults.

Patty made numerous contributions to the local community, cofounding the Redwood Coast Music Festival, the largest event for tourism in the County of Humboldt at the time. She advocated locally for Planned Parenthood, Hospice of Humboldt, and Life Plan Humboldt.

In 2002, Patty was elected to the State Assembly, where she served with distinction for six years representing District One, serving the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Trinity.

During her tenure in the State Assembly, Patty served as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, Chair of the Select Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Chair of the Legislative Women’s Caucus.

In 2006, Patty led efforts to cause the state to publish a master plan on aging. Patty believed so strongly in a person’s right to die as they chose that she authored “death with dignity” legislation to allow aid in dying, and, while the legislation didn’t pass right away, it served as the foundation for future death with dignity legislation that did pass in 2015.

Patty passed away on November 19, 2024, at 82 years of age, leaving behind her brother, sister, stepdaughter, stepson and step-granddaughters.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

**Opposition**

None on file

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