

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 1468 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY BRENNAN, SAMUELSON, BEYER, DALLY, DAY, FREEMAN,  
GRUCELA, HARHART, MANN, REICHLEY, BELFANTI, BRADFORD, BRIGGS,  
CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DENLINGER, DERMODY,  
DeWEESE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, GALLOWAY, GERBER, GODSHALL,  
GOODMAN, HARKINS, HELM, HESS, M. KELLER, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,  
MAHONEY, MARKOSEK, McCALL, MILLARD, MURT, O'NEILL, PALLONE,  
PASHINSKI, PAYNE, READSHAW, REED, SANTONI, SEIP, SHAPIRO,  
SIPTROTH, SWANGER AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 8, 2009

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, OCTOBER 2, 2009

## AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of PA Route 378 in Bethlehem, ~~Northampton~~ ←  
2 LEHIGH County, as the Fred B. Rooney Highway; AND DESIGNATING ←  
3 THE BRIDGE THAT CARRIES STATE ROUTE 1008, KNOWN AS HENRY  
4 ROAD, OVER BUSHKILL CREEK IN BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON  
5 COUNTY, AS THE WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON BRIDGE.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Fred B. Rooney Highway.

9 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as  
10 follows:

11 (1) Fred B. Rooney was born the son of an Irish-Catholic  
12 immigrant in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on November 6, 1925,  
13 attended the city's public school and graduated from  
14 Bethlehem High School in 1944.

15 (2) Fred B. Rooney served in the United States Army from  
16 February 1944 to April 1946 and served in the European

1 Theatre as a paratrooper during World War II.

2 (3) Fred B. Rooney returned home to the United States  
3 and earned a degree in business administration from the  
4 University of Georgia at Athens in 1950.

5 (4) After working in the real estate and insurance  
6 business, Fred B. Rooney was elected to two terms in the  
7 Pennsylvania State Senate, from November 5, 1958 until he  
8 resigned August 6, 1963.

9 (5) While serving as a Senator, Fred B. Rooney dedicated  
10 his energy to serving as a full-time legislator, and also  
11 serving as chairman of the Senate Highway Committee for a  
12 time.

13 (6) Fred B. Rooney won a special election to the Eighty-  
14 eighth Congress in 1963 and served until January 3, 1979,  
15 after winning seven succeeding reelection bids.

16 (7) While in Congress, Fred B. Rooney was a staunch  
17 advocate and supporter for Bethlehem redevelopment  
18 initiatives, economic aid for economically distressed  
19 communities, restrictions on imported goods and increases in  
20 Federal aid for education. He was also a champion of medical  
21 care for the elderly.

22 (8) Fred B. Rooney served on the House Interstate and  
23 Foreign Commerce Committee, and also served as the  
24 subcommittee chair on Transportation and Commerce.

25 (9) It is largely through his endeavors that PA Route  
26 378 runs through the City of Bethlehem.

27 (b) Designation.--That portion of PA Route 378 from U.S.  
28 Route 22 to the Hill to Hill Bridge in Bethlehem, ~~Northampton~~  
29 LEHIGH County is hereby designated as the "Fred B. Rooney  
30 Highway."



1 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and  
2 maintain signs to traffic in both directions to indicate the  
3 designation under subsection (b).

4 SECTION 1.1. WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON BRIDGE. ←

5 (A) FINDINGS.--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS  
6 FOLLOWS:

7 (1) WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE  
8 HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT FAMILY OF HENRY GUN MAKERS. THE  
9 HENRY FAMILY REPRESENTS FIVE GENERATIONS OF EARLY AMERICAN  
10 GUN MAKERS COMMENCING WITH WILLIAM HENRY OF LANCASTER IN 1729  
11 TO GRANVILLE HENRY IN 1912. THE HENRY GUN WORKS WAS LOCATED  
12 ON THE BOULTON PLANTATION NEAR NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA.

13 (2) WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON RETIRED FROM A LONG AND  
14 SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AND HAS RETURNED  
15 TO RESIDE AT THE JOHN JOSEPH HENRY HOUSE ON THE BOULTON  
16 PLANTATION, WHICH IS NOW HOME TO THE JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL  
17 SOCIETY AND THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE MUSEUM.

18 (3) WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON HAS ASSUMED A LEADERSHIP  
19 POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE JACOBSBURG  
20 HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO PRESERVING  
21 THE HENRY FAMILY LEGACY WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

22 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE BRIDGE THAT CARRIES STATE ROUTE 1008,  
23 KNOWN AS HENRY ROAD, OVER BUSHKILL CREEK IN BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP,  
24 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AND SHALL BE KNOWN AS  
25 THE WILLIAM HENRY ATHERTON BRIDGE.

26 (C) SIGNS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT AND  
27 MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SIGNS AT EACH END OF THE BRIDGE TO INDICATE  
28 THE DESIGNATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B).

29 Section 2. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.