
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2085 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, BERNSTINE, R. BROWN, DIAMOND, MUSTELLO,
OTTEN, SCHMITT, SCHROEDER AND STAMBAUGH, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 1, 1945 (P.L.1242, No.428), entitled
2 "An act relating to roads, streets, highways and bridges;
3 amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws
4 administered by the Secretary of Highways and by the
5 Department of Highways relating thereto," providing for
6 commemorative designations; and making editorial changes.

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

9 Section 1. The title and section 102 of the act of June 1,
10 1945 (P.L.1242, No.428), known as the State Highway Law, are
11 amended to read:

12 AN ACT

13 Relating to roads, streets, highways and bridges; amending,
14 revising, consolidating and changing the laws administered by
15 the Secretary of [Highways] Transportation and by the
16 Department of [Highways] Transportation relating thereto.

17 Section 102. Definitions.--When used in this act, the
18 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

19 (1) "State highway" shall mean and include all roads and
20 highways taken over by the Commonwealth as State highways under

1 the provisions of any act of Assembly. Unless clearly so
2 intended, the term shall not include any street in any city,
3 borough or incorporated town, even though the same may have been
4 taken over as a State highway.

5 (2) "Rural State highway system" shall mean and include all
6 roads and highways taken over by the Commonwealth as State
7 highways under the provisions of the act, approved the twenty-
8 second day of June, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one
9 (Pamphlet Laws, five hundred ninety-four), act number two
10 hundred three, entitled "An act establishing certain township
11 roads as State highways; authorizing their construction,
12 maintenance, and improvement under certain conditions and
13 restrictions; limiting the obligation of the Commonwealth in the
14 construction of certain structures located on such highways;
15 conferring certain powers upon the Department of [Highways]
16 Transportation and local authorities, persons, associations and
17 corporations for sharing the cost of the maintenance and
18 construction of such highways; and making an appropriation to
19 carry out the provisions of said act," and its supplements and
20 amendments, and all other roads and highways specifically
21 designated as rural State highways.

22 (3) "Department" shall mean the Department of [Highways]
23 Transportation of the Commonwealth.

24 (4) "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of [Highways]
25 Transportation of the Commonwealth.

26 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

27 Section 204.1. Commemorative Designations.--(a) (1) At the
28 secretary's discretion and subject to the limitations in
29 subsection (d), the secretary may, upon receipt of a completed
30 application under subsection (b) and the fee required under

1 subsection (c), approve a commemorative designation of a State-
2 owned bridge, highway, interchange or roundabout honoring an
3 individual or group and direct the department to erect and
4 maintain appropriate signs for the commemorative designation.

5 (2) At the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's discretion and
6 subject to the limitations in subsection (d), the Pennsylvania
7 Turnpike Commission may, upon receipt of a completed application
8 under subsection (b) and the fee required under subsection (c),
9 approve a commemorative designation of a portion of the turnpike
10 system or a bridge or interchange under the authority of the
11 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission honoring an individual or group
12 and erect and maintain appropriate signs for the commemorative
13 designation.

14 (b) An application for a commemorative designation under
15 subsection (a) may be submitted by an individual, organization
16 or a political subdivision and shall be submitted on a form and
17 in a manner as required by the department or the Pennsylvania
18 Turnpike Commission. The application shall include all of the
19 following:

20 (1) A petition containing a minimum of one hundred (100)
21 signatures supporting the commemorative designation from
22 residents of the county in which the State-owned bridge, State
23 highway, interchange, roundabout or portion of the turnpike
24 system is located.

25 (2) A description of the State-owned bridge, State highway,
26 interchange, roundabout or portion of the turnpike system being
27 requested for the commemorative designation.

28 (3) The name of the individual or group that the
29 commemorative designation would honor and a biography of the
30 individual or a description of the group.

1 (4) Signed letters of support for the commemorative
2 designation from both the member of the Senate and the House of
3 Representatives who represent each legislative district in which
4 the State-owned bridge, State highway, interchange, roundabout
5 or portion of the turnpike system is located.

6 (5) Other information or supporting documentation as
7 required by the department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike
8 Commission.

9 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), upon the
10 approval of an application for a commemorative designation under
11 subsection (a), the department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike
12 Commission shall require the applicant, prior to the
13 installation of signs for the commemorative designation, to
14 submit a one-time fee to the department or the Pennsylvania
15 Turnpike Commission to cover costs associated with the erection
16 and maintenance of the signs. The fee shall not exceed an amount
17 equal to eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) per sign erected
18 and maintained by the department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike
19 Commission for the commemorative designation.

20 (2) No fee shall be required by the department or the
21 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission for a commemorative designation
22 approved under subsection (a) for any of the following:

23 (i) A member of the military who was killed in action during
24 a period of war or armed conflict.

25 (ii) A member of law enforcement killed in the line of duty.

26 (iii) An emergency responder killed in the line of duty.

27 (iv) A commemorative designation honoring a group consisting
28 of veterans, law enforcement or emergency responders or honoring
29 veterans, law enforcement or emergency responders generally.

30 (v) The Governor, a member of the Pennsylvania Congressional

1 Delegation or a member of the General Assembly who died while in
2 office.

3 (d) The secretary or the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
4 shall not approve a commemorative designation under subsection
5 (a) for any of the following:

6 (1) An individual who is not deceased.

7 (2) An individual who did not reside in this Commonwealth
8 during their lifetime.

9 (3) A private business.

10 (4) A not-for-profit organization, except for a not-for-
11 profit organization whose members consist of veterans, current
12 or former members of law enforcement or current or former
13 emergency responders.

14 (5) A commemorative designation for a State-owned bridge,
15 State highway, interchange, roundabout or portion of the
16 turnpike system previously designated under this section or by a
17 separate act of the General Assembly.

18 (e) Not later than January 31, 2024, and annually each year
19 thereafter, the department and the Pennsylvania Turnpike
20 Commission shall issue a report to the chairman and minority
21 chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Senate and the
22 chairman and minority chairman of the Transportation Committee
23 of the House of Representatives containing all of the following
24 for the previous calendar year:

25 (1) A list of all commemorative designations approved under
26 subsection (a).

27 (2) A biography or description of each individual or group
28 honored by a commemorative designation.

29 (3) Total amounts collected from the fee required under
30 subsection (c).

1 (4) Any other information at the discretion of the
2 department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

3 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
4 commemorative designations for a State-owned bridge, State
5 highway, interchange, roundabout or portion of the turnpike
6 system shall only be made by the department or the Pennsylvania
7 Turnpike Commission after the effective date of this section
8 according to the provisions of this section.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.