

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2296 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, STAATS, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN,  
 GUENST, RYAN, LONGIETTI, O'MARA, BURNS, COX, GILLEN,  
 SAMUELSON, JOZWIAK, WARNER, MADDEN, NEILSON AND HOWARD,  
 JANUARY 27, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 27, 2022

AN ACT

1 Designating the portion of Interstate 76, also known as the  
 2 Schuylkill Expressway, from Mile Marker 334.5 to Mile Marker  
 3 335.5 in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, as the  
 4 Firefighter Thomas Royds Memorial Highway.

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

7 Section 1. Firefighter Thomas Royds Memorial Highway.

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

10 (1) A career firefighter, Thomas Royds was born on  
 11 October 7, 1972, in Philadelphia.

12 (2) Mr. Royds grew up in Belmont Hills where he  
 13 graduated from Harriton High School and earned his  
 14 associate's degree from Delaware Community College.

15 (3) In 1988, Mr. Royds started his fire-fighting career  
 16 as a volunteer with the Union Fire Association of Lower  
 17 Merion and the Belmont Hills Fire Company, following in both  
 18 his father's and grandfather's footsteps.

1 (4) In 2014, Mr. Royds joined the Clifton Heights Fire  
2 Company as a volunteer firefighter where he held various  
3 leadership positions over the last five years, most recently  
4 holding the rank of captain.

5 (5) Mr. Royds was a proud member of the Lower Merion  
6 Professional Firefighters Association International  
7 Association of Fire Fighters Local 2844, and served with the  
8 Lower Merion Fire Department.

9 (6) In 2019, after over 30 years of service, Mr. Royds  
10 was brought on as a full-time career firefighter at the Union  
11 Fire Association of Lower Merion, where he had previously  
12 earned the rank of Captain as a volunteer, and served as the  
13 Company's career Lieutenant. Mr. Royds also served as a  
14 career firefighter/driver with the Belmont Hills Fire  
15 Company.

16 (7) At one point or another during his career, Mr. Royds  
17 held every board position for the Union Fire Association of  
18 Lower Merion's Active Members Club.

19 (8) On July 24, 2021, Firefighter Thomas Royds was  
20 struck and killed by a motorist while responding with the  
21 Belmont Hills Fire Company to an accident on the Schuylkill  
22 Expressway at the age of 48.

23 (9) On July 27, 2021, the Governor ordered the  
24 Commonwealth flag on all Commonwealth facilities, public  
25 buildings and grounds in Montgomery County to fly at half-  
26 staff in honor of Firefighter Thomas Royds.

27 (b) Designation.--The portion of Interstate 76, also known  
28 as the Schuylkill Expressway, from mile marker 334.5 to mile  
29 marker 335.5 in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, is  
30 designated the Firefighter Thomas Royds Memorial Highway.

1 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and  
2 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the highway to  
3 traffic in both directions on the highway.

4 Section 2. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.