

HCS SB 840 -- HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

This bill changes the laws regarding the highway and bridge designation process. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that a person requesting a highway or bridge designation must submit the proper documents and fees to the Department of Transportation no later than November 1 of each year. The Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight will then approve or deny the request during the next regular legislative session;

(2) Specifies that the signs erected must be maintained for a 20-year period; and after that time, the signs will be subject to removal unless the sponsoring organization or person files another application to retain the designation;

(3) Specifies that the fee for constructing and maintaining the signs will not exceed the construction and maintenance cost of each sign. Currently, the fees are \$400 and \$600 respectively;

(4) Prohibits a bridge or portion of a highway from being named after more than one person, event, place, or organization. Each person, event, place, or organization will only be eligible for one bridge or highway designation;

(5) Requires the highway designation sign fees to be deposited into the Road Fund instead of the Department of Transportation Bridge and Highway Sign Fund;

(6) Allows highway and bridge designations to also be made for state employees killed while serving the state; and

(7) Allows the Highways and Transportation Commission to convey or exchange its interest in land or leasehold for the property's approximate fair market value. The commission, at its discretion, will also be allowed to convey at no cost or exchange its interest in any land or leasehold that is no longer necessary for its use to any federal, state, or local governmental entity.