

HCS HB 879 -- HIGHWAY DESIGNATION PROCESS

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 3.

This bill establishes an application process for the designation of a highway to honor a famous Missourian. To seek a designation an organization or person must petition the Department of Transportation by submitting:

- (1) An application describing the not more than two-mile segment of highway for which designation is sought and the proposed name of the highway. The application must include the name of a current state legislator who will sponsor the designation;
- (2) A list of at least 100 signatures of individuals supporting the designation from the Senate district in which the highway is located; and
- (3) A fee as determined by the department to cover the costs of construction and maintenance of the proposed sign.

The bill sets requirements for being considered a famous Missourian.

The documents and fees are to be submitted to the department no later than November 1 to be approved or denied by the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight during the next legislative session. The department must provide public notice of any proposed highway designation. If the designation is not approved by the joint committee, 97% of the application fee is to be refunded to the requesting organization or person.

A highway designation may be revoked upon the submission of a petition for revocation to the department that is signed by a legislator whose district encompasses the portion of highway and at least 100 residents of the district. The department must present the petition for revocation to the joint committee for approval.

Two highway signs will be placed for each highway designation, unless the designated highway crosses two or more county lines, then the department may give consideration to additional signs. No portion of a highway may be named for more than one event, organization or person. Any signs placed for a highway designation will be maintained for 20 years. After such period, the signs may

be removed by the department and the highway may be designated for another purpose. An organization or person may request a designation be retained for an additional 20-year period by submitting an application and fees and no earlier than one year before the designation's expiration date and not later than one year after the expiration date.

This section applies to highway designations sought after August 28, 2017.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would attract tourists to the state. People would come to see the highway designations and have their pictures taken next to the highway signs.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Cookson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.