

Legislative Analysis



SERGEANT MATTHEW WEBBER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5635 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Kunse

Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Complete to 5-16-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5635 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate highway US-131 in Mecosta County, from 11 Mile Road to Old State Road, as the “Sgt. Matthew Webber Memorial Highway.”

MCL 250.2073b

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony, the Michigan National Guard, and the *Military Times*, Matthew A. Webber was born on October 30, 1982, in Grand Rapids, to Alan and Jayne Webber. Matthew attended Morley Stanwood High School in Mecosta County, where he was president of the student council, an Honor Society student, and a three-sport athlete, graduating in June 2001. He continued his education by attending Western Michigan University, where he was enrolled in the Business and Marketing degree program. He was also a member of SigEps Fraternity.

In 1999, prior to graduation, Matthew joined the Army National Guard, initially not expecting to see active duty, but hoping to earn money to attend Western Michigan University. But he was called to active duty in June 2005 to proudly serve his country in the war with Iraq.

Sergeant Webber was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment (mechanized), Army National Guard and was stationed at Habbaniyah, Iraq. On Monday, November 21, 2005, during combat operations, an improvised explosive device detonated near Sergeant Webber’s Humvee. He sustained severe injuries and was flown to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. On April 27, 2006, Sergeant Matthew Webber died of his injuries. He was 23 years old.

Designating a portion of highway US-131 in Mecosta County would be an appropriate way to honor his life, his dedication to his community, and his “always ready, always there” sacrifice for his country.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the

highway only “when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the cost of erecting and maintaining those markers.” As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (5-14-24)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.