

# Legislative Analysis



## TROOPER JOEL E. POPP MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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House Bill 5717 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Amos O’Neal

Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Complete to 6-13-24

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5717 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate highway I-75 from Willard Road to Riverview Road in Saginaw County as the “Trooper Joel E. Popp Memorial Highway.”

Proposed MCL 250.2105a

### BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony, Mlive, and the Michigan State Police, Joel Popp enlisted with the Michigan State Police in January 2020 and was assigned to the Tri-City Post.

On the evening of Wednesday, January 24, 2024, Trooper Popp and other troopers were investigating a suspected impaired driver stopped in a curved lane of traffic on I-75 near Birch Run. While investigating, Trooper Popp was standing outside his patrol vehicle when another motorist struck him and two patrol cars. Trooper Popp was taken to Hurley Medical Center, where he later died of his injuries. He was the fifty-sixth Michigan State Police trooper to die in the line of duty. He was 39 years old.

Designating a portion of I-75 to the memory of Trooper Joel E. Popp would recognize his sacrifice and honor his commitment and dedication of service to the citizens of his community and to the state Michigan.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the highway name 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:

A representative of the Michigan State Police testified in support of the bill. (6-11-24)

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