

SENATE BILL 57

By Cohen

AN ACT to name certain weigh stations, rest areas and welcome centers located on the "Music Highway" and to provide for the erection of appropriate signage at such locations.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth, development and popularity of various forms of American music; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is undisputedly both the birthplace and cradle of the blues, and the Bluff City is also a quality purveyor of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is the home of such notable record labels as the legendary Sun Records and the world renowned Stax Records; and

WHEREAS, while the magnificent history of country music has been written throughout these United States, Nashville proudly keeps the eternal flame for the past, present and future of this great American art form; and

WHEREAS, Nashville's pre-eminence as "Music City, U.S.A." is demonstrated by its enviable status as a recording mecca for artists of many different musical genres; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the bountiful musical heritages possessed by Memphis and Nashville, many points in between these two fine cities on the "Music Highway" are notable for the music and/or musicians such locales have produced, including Jackson, Nutbush, Luttrell, Tiptonville, Brownsville and Hurricane Mills; and

WHEREAS, in order to remind Tennesseans and visitors of our state's many valuable contributions to American popular music, Chapter No. 124 of the Public Acts of 1997 designated Interstate Highway 40 from the eastern boundary of Davidson County to the Mississippi River in Shelby County as the "Music Highway"; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the directives of Public Chapter No. 124, the Department of Tourist Development is publishing a book about the "Music Highway"; this seminal publication will list areas and sites of musical interest along the "Music Highway" and delineate Tennessee's important role in the history, growth and development of American popular music; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly strongly feels that the designation of certain rest areas, weigh stations and welcome centers on the "Music Highway" in honor of various Tennessee musical artists, events and entities will spark interest among tourists and citizens regarding Tennessee's rich musical heritage and inspire them to learn more about Tennessee's prominent place in the pantheon of American popular music; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the rest areas, weigh stations and welcome center located on the "Music Highway" (Interstate Highway 40 from the eastern boundary of Davidson County to the Mississippi River in Shelby County) are hereby designated as follows:

- (1) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Dickson County - "Roy Acuff/Grand Ole Opry Rest Area";
- (2) westbound rest area on I-40 in Dickson County - "Loretta Lynn Rest Area";
- (3) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Benton County - "Chet Atkins Rest Area";
- (4) westbound rest area on I-40 in Benton County - "Johnny Cash Rest Area";
- (4) eastbound rest area on I-40 in Madison County - "Tina Turner Rest Area";
- (5) westbound rest area on I-40 in Madison County - "Carl Perkins Rest Area";
- (6) eastbound weigh station on I-40 in Haywood County - "Booker T. and the MG's/Stax Records Weigh Station";
- (7) westbound weigh station on I-40 in Haywood County - "Sam Phillips/Sun Records Weigh Station"; and
- (8) eastbound welcome center on I-40 in Shelby County at Riverside Drive - Elvis Presley/B.B. King Welcome Center".

SECTION 2.

(a) The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers at the aforementioned locations designating such rest areas, weigh stations and welcome center as provided in Section 1.

(b) Such signs shall bear a logo or design with musical connotations. Such logo or design could include, but should not necessarily be limited to, representations of musical notes or musical instruments.

(c) Such signs shall be designed by the Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Department of Tourist Development.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The Department of Tourist Development is urged and encouraged, within existing resources, to place at each designated rest area, weigh station or welcome center a graphic display which depicts, through words and pictures, the musical history and heritage of the area in which the rest area, weigh station or welcome center is located. Such graphic display should include background and historical information on such area's musical history and heritage and specific information on the musical artist or entity for whom the rest area, weigh station or welcome center is named.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.