

HOUSE BILL 2140

By McDonald

AN ACT to designate a segment of Interstate 65 as the
"Deputy Brian Denning Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Brian Denning of the Sumner County Sheriff's Department was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on December 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Denning truly enjoyed being a police officer, and he evidenced uncommon dedication to his duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of his profession; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Denning performed his appointed duties as an interdiction officer assigned to the 18th Judicial Drug Task Force in an admirable manner that distinguished him as a credit to both his community and his profession; Sumner County was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during his service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of December 8, 2008, when Deputy Denning was killed in a motor vehicle accident while returning from a call; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sumner County, and indeed the entire State, are now feeling the deep pain produced by this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, known and admired by his fellow citizens as a brave, honest, ethical, friendly, courageous, and loving person, Deputy Denning's passion was for his job and he always performed above and beyond the call of duty in keeping drugs off the streets; and

WHEREAS, present and future law enforcement officers would do well to emulate the legacy that this brave peace officer has left behind; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Denning was a highly respected member of his community, not only as a law enforcement professional who served and protected his fellow citizens, but also as a friend and a neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Denning enjoyed hunting with his friends and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Denning is survived by his wife and two step children who loved him very much; they have requested that a segment of I-65 where he was positioned when working interdiction be named as a lasting memorial to this outstanding husband and father, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most respectfully honors this request; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of I-65 from mile marker 102 north to the state line at Kentucky is hereby designated the "Deputy Brian Denning Memorial Highway".

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such segment of I-65, both north and south, as the "Deputy Brian

Denning Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional 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 appellation "Deputy Brian Denning Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Deputy Brian Denning Memorial Highway".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.