

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R2614 JXC-F

H.B. 481
By: Stephenson et al. (Kolhkorst)
Transportation
5/6/2015
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Interested parties have pointed to the growing desire to recognize Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña for his selfless service in the Korean War. The steadfast bravery exhibited by Sergeant Peña in sacrificing his life to save retreating members of his platoon deserves an acknowledgement as grand as his gesture. H.B. 481 seeks to recognize Sergeant Peña's heroism with a memorial highway designation.

H.B. 481 amends the Transportation Code to designate the portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1301 in Wharton County between its intersection with the Matagorda County line and Richmond Road as the Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation. The bill requires the Texas Department of Transportation, subject to a grant or donation of funds, to design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information and to erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.

H.B. 481 amends current law relating to the designation of a segment of Farm-to-Market Road 1301 in Wharton County as the Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña Memorial Highway.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 225, Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.103, as follows:

Sec. 225.103. MASTER SERGEANT MIKE C. PEÑA MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. (a) Provides that the portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1301 in Wharton County between its intersection with the Matagorda County line and Richmond Road is designated as the Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña Memorial Highway. Provides that the designation is in addition to any other designation.

(b) Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), subject to Section 225.021(c) (prohibiting TxDOT from designing, constructing, or erecting a marker under this subchapter unless a grant or donation of funds is made to TxDOT to cover the cost of the design, construction, and erection of the marker), to:

- (1) design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Master Sergeant Mike C. Peña Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information; and
- (2) erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2015.