

ASSEMBLY, No. 1369

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Designates portion of State Highway Route 27 in Princeton as "Patrolman Billie D. Ellis Memorial Highway."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** designating the portion of State Highway Route 27 in the
2 municipality of Princeton, in the county of Mercer, as the
3 "Patrolman Billie D. Ellis Memorial Highway."
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Patrolman Billie D. Ellis was an extraordinary public
6 servant who served the people of his community as a patrolman on
7 the Princeton Police Department; and

8 **WHEREAS**, On August 19, 1955, Patrick Maloney and Kenneth
9 Werkman, Jr., both 15 years of age, embarked on a canoe trip near
10 the dam separating the Millstone River from Lake Carnegie in the
11 municipality of Princeton; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The effects of Hurricane Diane caused water to pour over
13 the Lake Carnegie Dam, resulting in swirling rapids that caused the
14 boat carrying the two young men to capsize; and

15 **WHEREAS**, While off duty, Patrolman Ellis responded to a radio call
16 about the two young men in distress, arrived on the scene, boarded
17 a row boat along with other officers, and set out for the dam; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Due to the extreme turbulence in the waters, Patrolman
19 Ellis became separated from his boat while attempting to save the
20 young men; and

21 **WHEREAS**, On that day, Patrolman Ellis and the two young men
22 tragically perished in the surging water; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Patrolman Ellis was survived by his wife, Barbara, his
24 sons Robert and Gary, and his daughter Sally, who was born after
25 his death; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Although the details of Patrolman Ellis's untimely death
27 are troubling, those events serve as a reminder of the heroism and
28 bravery of Patrolman Ellis, who at his own peril provided aid to
29 those in distress, and of those officers who heroically serve and
30 protect the public; and

31 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that Patrolman Billie D. Ellis be
32 remembered by designating the portion of State Highway Route 27
33 in the municipality of Princeton in his memory; now, therefore,
34

35 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
36 *of New Jersey:*
37

38 1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the
39 portion of State Highway Route 27, extending from milepost 0 to
40 milepost 3.04, in the municipality of Princeton as the "Patrolman
41 Billie D. Ellis Memorial Highway" and erect appropriate signs
42 bearing this designation and dedication.
43

44 2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing,
45 purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established
46 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of
47 Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other
48 financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding

1 or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs
2 associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining
3 signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of
4 this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private
5 sources, including, but not limited to, non-governmental non-profit,
6 educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not
7 proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of
8 Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a
9 responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing,
10 purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

11

12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill designates the portion of State Highway Route 27,
18 extending from milepost 0 to milepost 3.04 in the municipality of
19 Princeton, as the "Patrolman Billie D. Ellis Memorial Highway" to
20 honor the memory of Patrolman Billie D. Ellis, who was tragically
21 killed while attempting to save the lives of two children on Lake
22 Carnegie during a hurricane.

23 Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other
24 road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds
25 are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs
26 bearing the designation for the "Patrolman Billie D. Ellis Memorial
27 Highway." The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to
28 receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs
29 associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining
30 signs bearing the designation.