

SUBJECT: Designating the Corporal David Slaton Memorial Highway

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Phillips, Darby, Bonnen, Y. Davis, Fletcher, Harper-Brown,
Lavender, Pickett, Rodriguez

0 nays

2 absent — Martinez, McClendon

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, ch. 225 governs the naming of a state highway. The chapter sets forth general procedures for designating named highways and contains specific names for numerous highways in the state system. A part of a highway can be named only for someone who is deceased and who was significant in the state's history or in the lives of Texans. A local government can submit an application for a memorial or other designation to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Sec. 225.021(c) relieves TxDOT from any requirement to design, make, or install a marker designating a named state highway unless the department receives a donation to cover the costs of doing so.

DIGEST: HB 314 would designate as the Corporal David Slaton Memorial Highway a part of U.S. Highway 81 from the Texas-Oklahoma border to the current northern municipal boundary of Bowie. The bill would require TxDOT to design and make markers with the highway number and name and install them at each end of the highway and elsewhere, as appropriate, subject to existing law concerning costs.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

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SUPPORTERS
SAY:

HB 314 would honor Department of Public Safety (DPS) trooper Corporal David Slaton, who was killed in a traffic accident on U.S. Highway 81 while on duty in September 2010. Corporal Slaton was a well-liked member of his community who served Texas as a trooper for 36 years.

The bill would place in statute a request already approved by TxDOT for the memorial designation from the Montague County community. The Legislative Budget Board (LBB) estimates no cost to the state from the bill, and the highway markers already have been paid for and erected.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.