



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2714

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

605 ILCS 127/10
605 ILCS 127/15

Amends the Heroes Way Designation Program Act. Permits any federally-chartered or state-chartered veterans service organization to apply for designation of an honorary road sign for any member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action, if no eligible family member is available to apply for designation of an honorary road sign.

LRB104 09672 KTG 19738 b

1 AN ACT concerning roads and bridges.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Heroes Way Designation Program Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 10 and 15 as follows:

6 (605 ILCS 127/10)

7 Sec. 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

8 "Department" means the Illinois Department of
9 Transportation.

10 "Federally-chartered veterans service organization" means
11 any veterans service organization chartered by the United
12 States Congress and incorporated in Illinois.

13 "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Illinois Department
14 of Transportation.

15 "State-chartered veterans service organization" means any
16 veterans service organization chartered by the Attorney
17 General as provided in the Veteran Service Organizations State
18 Charter Act.

19 "United States Armed Forces" means any branch of the
20 United States Military, including National Guard and military
21 reserve components.

22 (Source: P.A. 99-802, eff. 1-1-17.)

1 (605 ILCS 127/15)

2 Sec. 15. Heroes Way Designation Program.

3 (a) Any person who is related by marriage, adoption, or
4 consanguinity within the second degree to a member of the
5 United States Armed Forces who was killed in action while
6 performing active military duty with the Armed Forces, and who
7 was a resident of this State at the time he or she was killed
8 in action, may apply for a designation allowing the placement
9 of an honorary sign alongside roads designated under the
10 provisions of this Act.

11 (a-5) If no person described under subsection (a) is
12 available, then any federally-chartered or state-charted
13 veterans service organization may apply for a designation
14 allowing the placement of an honorary sign alongside roads
15 designated under the provision of this Act for any member of
16 the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action while
17 performing active military duty with the Armed Forces, and who
18 was a resident of this State at the time he or she was killed
19 in action.

20 (b) The honorary signs may be placed upon interstate or
21 state-numbered highway interchanges or upon bridges or
22 segments of highway under the jurisdiction of the Department
23 according to the provisions of this Section, and any
24 applicable federal and State limitations or conditions on
25 highway signage, including location and spacing.

26 (c) Any person described under subsection (a) or any

1 federally-chartered or state-charted veterans service
2 organization described under subsection (a-5) that ~~of this~~
3 ~~Section who~~ desires to have an interstate or state-numbered
4 highway interchange or bridge or segment of highway under the
5 jurisdiction of the Department designated after a member of
6 the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action ~~his or~~
7 ~~her family member~~ shall petition the Department by submitting
8 an application in a form prescribed by the Secretary. The form
9 shall include the amount of the fee under subsection (d) of
10 this Section. The application must meet the following
11 requirements:

12 (1) describe the interstate or state-numbered highway
13 interchange or bridge or segment of highway under the
14 jurisdiction of the Department for which the designation
15 is sought and the proposed name of the interchange,
16 bridge, or relevant segment of highway. The application
17 shall include the name of at least one current member of
18 the General Assembly who will sponsor the designation. The
19 application may contain written testimony for support of
20 the designation;

21 (2) a signed form, prescribed by the Secretary,
22 certifying that the applicant is either (i) related by
23 marriage, adoption, or consanguinity within the second
24 degree to the member of the United States Armed Forces who
25 was killed in action or (ii) is a federally-chartered or
26 state-charted veterans service organization; and

1 (3) the name of the member of the United States Armed
2 Forces for whom the designation is sought must be listed
3 on the National Gold Star Family Registry.

4 (d) After determining that the petitioner meets all of the
5 application requirements of subsection (c), the Department
6 shall submit a recommendation containing the proposed
7 designations to the sponsor in the General Assembly named in
8 the application. The Department shall be notified upon the
9 approval or denial of a proposed designation. Upon the
10 approval of a proposed designation, the petitioner shall
11 submit a fee to be determined by the Secretary to cover the
12 costs of constructing and maintaining the proposed signs on
13 the interchange, bridge, or segment of highway. The fee shall
14 not exceed the cost of constructing and maintaining each sign.

15 (e) The Department shall give notice of any proposed
16 designation under this Section on the Department's official
17 public website.

18 (f) Two signs shall be erected for each interchange,
19 bridge, or segment of highway designation processed under this
20 Section.

21 (g) No interchange, bridge, or segment of highway may be
22 named or designated under this Section if it carries an
23 existing designation. A designated member of the United States
24 Armed Forces shall not be eligible for more than one
25 interchange, bridge, or segment of highway designation under
26 this Section.

1 (h) All moneys received by the Department for the
2 construction and maintenance of interchange, bridge, or
3 segment of highway signs shall be deposited in the "Road Fund"
4 of the State treasury.

5 (i) The documents and fees required under this Section
6 shall be submitted to the Department.

7 (Source: P.A. 99-802, eff. 1-1-17.)