

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Heroes  
5 Way Designation Program Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. This Act establishes a designation  
7 program, to be known as the "Heroes Way Designation Program",  
8 to honor the fallen Illinois heroes who have been killed in  
9 action while performing active military duty with the United  
10 States Armed Forces.

11 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

12 "Department" means the Illinois Department of  
13 Transportation.

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

16 "United States Armed Forces" means any branch of the United  
17 States Military, including National Guard and military reserve  
18 components.

19 Section 15. Heroes Way Designation Program.

20 (a) Any person who is related by marriage, adoption, or  
21 consanguinity within the second degree to a member of the

1 United States Armed Forces who was killed in action while  
2 performing active military duty with the Armed Forces, and who  
3 was a resident of this State at the time he or she was killed in  
4 action, may apply for a designation allowing the placement of  
5 an honorary sign alongside roads designated under the  
6 provisions of this Act.

7 (b) The honorary signs may be placed upon interstate or  
8 state-numbered highway interchanges or upon bridges or  
9 segments of highway under the jurisdiction of the Department  
10 according to the provisions of this Section, and any applicable  
11 federal and State limitations or conditions on highway signage,  
12 including location and spacing.

13 (c) Any person described under subsection (a) of this  
14 Section who desires to have an interstate or state-numbered  
15 highway interchange or bridge or segment of highway under the  
16 jurisdiction of the Department designated after his or her  
17 family member shall petition the Department by submitting an  
18 application in a form prescribed by the Secretary. The form  
19 shall include the amount of the fee under subsection (d) of  
20 this Section. The application must meet the following  
21 requirements:

22 (1) describe the interstate or state-numbered highway  
23 interchange or bridge or segment of highway under the  
24 jurisdiction of the Department for which the designation is  
25 sought and the proposed name of the interchange, bridge, or  
26 relevant segment of highway. The application shall include

1 the name of at least one current member of the General  
2 Assembly who will sponsor the designation. The application  
3 may contain written testimony for support of the  
4 designation;

5 (2) a signed form, prescribed by the Secretary,  
6 certifying that the applicant is related by marriage,  
7 adoption, or consanguinity within the second degree to the  
8 member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in  
9 action; and

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

13 (d) After determining that the petitioner meets all of the  
14 application requirements of subsection (c), the Department  
15 shall submit a recommendation containing the proposed  
16 designations to the sponsor in the General Assembly named in  
17 the application. The Department shall be notified upon the  
18 approval or denial of a proposed designation. Upon the approval  
19 of a proposed designation, the petitioner shall submit a fee to  
20 be determined by the Secretary to cover the costs of  
21 constructing and maintaining the proposed signs on the  
22 interchange, bridge, or segment of highway. The fee shall not  
23 exceed the cost of constructing and maintaining each sign.

24 (e) The Department shall give notice of any proposed  
25 designation under this Section on the Department's official  
26 public website.

1           (f) Two signs shall be erected for each interchange,  
2 bridge, or segment of highway designation processed under this  
3 Section.

4           (g) No interchange, bridge, or segment of highway may be  
5 named or designated under this Section if it carries an  
6 existing designation. A designated member of the United States  
7 Armed Forces shall not be eligible for more than one  
8 interchange, bridge, or segment of highway designation under  
9 this Section.

10          (h) All moneys received by the Department for the  
11 construction and maintenance of interchange, bridge, or  
12 segment of highway signs shall be deposited in the "Road Fund"  
13 of the State treasury.

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