

**SUBJECT:** Designating the Jaime Zapata Memorial Boulevard

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Phillips, Darby, Y. Davis, Fletcher, Harper-Brown, Martinez, McClendon, Pickett, Rodriguez

0 nays

2 absent — Bonnen, Lavender

**WITNESSES:** For — None

Against — None

On — Celeste Morris

**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.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jaime Zapata was shot and killed in the line of duty after being attacked by unknown assailants while driving in the state of San Luis Potosí. Special Agent Zapata was a native of Brownsville and graduated from the University of Texas at Brownsville in 2005.

**DIGEST:** HB 3431 would designate as the Jaime Zapata Memorial Boulevard sections of U.S. Highway 77/83 and SH 4 in Brownsville. 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 effect September 1, 2011.

**NOTES:**

The companion bill, SB 1470 by Lucio, has been referred to the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee.

On May 3, the Senate approved SR 330 by Lucio, honoring the life of Jaime Jorge Zapata.