

SUBJECT: Designating a portion of SH 358 as the Peace Officers Memorial Highway

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Phillips, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Fletcher, Guerra, Harper-Brown, Lavender, McClendon, Pickett, Riddle

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Snapper Carr, City of Corpus Christi; Melinda Griffith, Corpus Christi Police Officers Association; Charley Wilkison, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas)

Against — none

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* John Barton, Texas Department of Transportation)

DIGEST: HB 3831 would designate part of State Highway 358, from Interstate 37 to State Highway 286 in Nueces County, as the Peace Officers Memorial Highway. The designation would be in addition to any other designation.

The bill would require the Texas Department of Transportation to design, construct, and erect markers indicating the designation at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway. The requirement would be subject to sec. 225.021(c), under which the department is not required to design, construct, or erect a marker unless a grant or donation of funds is made to cover the cost.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 3831 would honor Lt. Stuart Alexander and other peace officers who have sacrificed their lives while in service to their communities by designating a portion of State Highway 358 as the Peace Officers Memorial Highway. Lieutenant Stuart Alexander, a 20-year veteran of the Corpus Christi Police Department, was hit and killed on State Highway 358 while in the line of duty.

HB 3831
House Research Organization
page 2

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The House Transportation Committee recommended HB 3831 be sent to the House Local and Consent Calendar on April 16 but reconsidered the vote in committee on April 23.

HB 695 by Phillips, which would require highway designations to be funded solely through grants or donations, was passed by the House by a vote of 149-0 (1 present, not voting) on April 4 and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on May 1. HB 695 would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.