

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 264

(Delegate Sophocleus, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Finance

State Highways - Designation - Purple Heart Recipients Highway

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to designate the portion of Maryland Route 10 between Ordinance Road and Ritchie Highway (Route 2) in Anne Arundel County as the Purple Hearts Recipients Highway.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures would increase by \$2,000 to \$4,000, depending on the number of signs required. These costs can be handled with existing resources. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Several portions of highways in Maryland have been dedicated to combat veterans, including the Korean War Veterans' Memorial Highway on Interstate 70 (Chapter 512 of 2002), the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Highway (Chapter 32 of 2002), the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway (Chapter 554 of 2001), and the Korean War Veterans' Memorial Highway on Route 43 (Chapter 180 of 2001).

Background: The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an enemy in combat and also posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration. According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, it is the oldest

military decoration in the world in current use and began as the Badge of Military Merit under George Washington. Approximately 600,000 Purple Heart recipients live in the United States.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Transportation, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
lc/jr

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