

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 271

(Senator Hooper, *et al.*)

Finance

**State Highway Administration - Highway Designation - Gold Star Mothers  
 Memorial Highway**

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to designate the portion of Maryland Route 23 between Conowingo Road and Baldwin Road in Harford County “The Harford County Gold Star Mothers Memorial Highway.”

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures would increase by \$2,000 in FY 2007 to place signs at the beginning and end of the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Highway.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	2,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$2,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** SHA has the authority to designate certain highways to be specifically named. SHA has designated portions of highways the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway,” and the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.” In addition,

organizations can apply to the Maryland Transportation Commission to name particular highways. The commission makes recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation, who officially renames the highway. Examples of this type of highway include the “115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Highway” (a section of U.S. Route 15), and the “175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Highway” (a section of Maryland Route 151).

**Background:** Beginning in World War I, families of individuals who were serving overseas in combat often hung “service flags” in the windows of their homes. Each service member in the family was represented on a banner by a blue star. If one of the service members was killed, the color of their star was changed to gold.

In 1918, a woman whose son had died in aerial combat in France, Grace Darling Seibold, formed the Gold Star Mothers organization, as a charitable and support group for women who had lost children in combat. In 1928, the organization was chartered on a national level.

Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman whose child has died in the line of duty of the U.S. Armed Forces. The group currently has 933 members.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Wikipedia, Harford County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2006  
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