

HB 1652 -- MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

SPONSOR: Bromley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill designates the portion of State Highway 171 from State Highway Z continuing to State Highway 43 in Jasper County as the "Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway". The costs of signage for this designation will be paid by private donations.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill recognizes veterans who took part in nuclear testing or were near nuclear explosions. Some veterans would go into blast areas as soon as four hours after an explosion in order to complete research for national defense purposes. Many of these veterans were exposed to high amounts of radiation as a result of service which resulted in some veterans having long-term health impacts, such as cancer. Supporters also claim that many of these veterans were sworn to secrecy for many years for national security reasons and these veterans should be recognized for their service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bromley; Clayton B. Crosby; and Ted Donaldson, Compass Quest.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill submitted online testimony.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.