
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2482 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, CONKLIN, DAY, HAHN, MACKENZIE, McNEILL,
SAMUELSON, SCHLOSSBERG, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, K. BOYLE,
BROOKS, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER, COHEN,
D. COSTA, COX, DENLINGER, DERMODY, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT,
FARINA, FLYNN, GABLER, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL,
GROVE, HANNA, C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL,
KINSEY, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, LUCAS, MAHONEY, MAJOR,
MARSICO, McCARTER, MILLARD, MILNE, MIRABITO, MURT, NEILSON,
O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, ROCK, SABATINA, SANKEY,
SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOEPEL,
VEREB, VITALI, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

AN ACT

1 Designating the bridge crossing the Delaware River along U.S.
2 Route 22, also known as the Easton-Phillipsburg Toll Bridge,
3 between Phillipsburg, New Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania as
4 the Sergeant William John Cahir Memorial Bridge.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sergeant William John Cahir Memorial Bridge.

8 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
9 follows:

10 (1) William John Cahir, a graduate of The Pennsylvania
11 State University, worked as a newspaper correspondent for the
12 Express-Times, providing news coverage to Warren and
13 Hunterdon counties in New Jersey and Lehigh and Northampton
14 counties in Pennsylvania, and for Newhouse News Service,

1 during which time his work regularly appeared in numerous New
2 Jersey-based newspapers.

3 (2) Throughout his life, William Cahir was committed to
4 public service, working for United States Senator Edward
5 Kennedy and United States Senator Harris Wofford, and running
6 for Congress in Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District in
7 2008.

8 (3) After the terror attacks against the United States
9 on September 11, 2001, William Cahir enlisted in the United
10 States Marine Corps Reserve at 34 years of age, in which he
11 went to great lengths to obtain an age waiver and eventually
12 rose to the rank of sergeant.

13 (4) Sergeant Cahir was assigned to the 4th Civil Affairs
14 Group, Marine Forces Reserve based in Washington, DC,
15 completed two tours in Iraq, and in 2009, was deployed for a
16 tour in Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

17 (5) On August 13, 2009, while completing his third tour,
18 Sergeant Cahir was tragically shot and killed by enemy fire
19 while on a dismounted patrol during Eastern Resolve II, a
20 predawn offensive operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan,
21 that was intended to cut Taliban trade and supply lines in
22 order to allow local residents to vote in the Afghan
23 presidential election.

24 (6) For his heroism, Sergeant Cahir received the Bronze
25 Star, the Purple Heart and other decorations.

26 (7) Sergeant Cahir was survived by his wife, Rene, who
27 at the time of his death was pregnant with their twin
28 daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth.

29 (8) The Easton-Phillipsburg Toll Bridge, operated by the
30 Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, connects the

1 counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania that were served by
2 the newspaper for which Sergeant Cahir reported.

3 (9) It is altogether fitting and proper for the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to honor the life and sacrifice
5 of Sergeant William John Cahir by designating the bridge
6 crossing the Delaware River along U.S. Route 22 between
7 Phillipsburg, New Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania, also known
8 as the Easton-Phillipsburg Toll Bridge, as the Sergeant
9 William John Cahir Memorial Bridge.

10 (b) Designation and signs.--

11 (1) The executive director of the Delaware River Joint
12 Toll Bridge Commission shall designate the U.S. Route 22
13 bridge crossing the Delaware River between Phillipsburg, New
14 Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania, known as the Easton-
15 Phillipsburg Toll Bridge, as the Sergeant William John Cahir
16 Memorial Bridge and shall erect and maintain appropriate
17 signs displaying the name of the bridge to traffic in both
18 directions on the bridge.

19 (2) Commonwealth or other public funds may not be used
20 for producing, purchasing or erecting signs bearing the
21 designation under paragraph (1).

22 Section 2. Notice.

23 The Governor shall publish notice of the enactment of
24 legislation by the State of New Jersey having an identical
25 effect with this act in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

26 Section 3. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect as follows:

28 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
29 immediately:

30 (i) Section 2 of this act.

1 (ii) This section.

2 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect upon
3 publication of the notice under section 2.