

HOUSE BILL 550

By Tidwell

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 438 in Perry County in honor of the late Dickson Augustus Weems.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary citizens who, during their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Dickson Augustus Weems, a longtime resident of the Spring Creek community of Perry County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Weems was instrumental in the organization and promotion of the Weems String Band, which earned international applause and acclaim, not only for the Weems family, but also for their native Perry County; and

WHEREAS, the Perry County Commission has petitioned this General Assembly to name a certain bridge on State Route 438 to honor Mr. Weems's memory and to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Spring Creek on State Route 438 in Perry County is hereby designated the "Dickson Augustus Weems Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an excellent citizen and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Dickson Augustus Weems Memorial Bridge."

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.