

SENATE BILL 712

By Tate

AN ACT to designate a segment of State Route 176
(Getwell Road) in Shelby County in honor of Jerry
Lee Lewis.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to pay tribute to those extraordinary musicians who have helped make Tennessee an integral part of the rich tapestry of American popular music, from country to the blues, from soul to rock & roll; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary artists who have made significant contributions to the field of popular music; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding musician who has become a permanent fixture of American music, is Mr. Jerry Lee Lewis; and

WHEREAS, his countless contributions were recently recognized when he was named by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and Case Western Reserve University as an "American Music Master"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis holds the singular distinction of being the first-ever living recipient of the honor whose past recipients include two of his personal heroes, Jimmie Rodgers and Hank Williams, Sr., and; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis's life-long musical achievements were celebrated with a symposium and a week of festivities titled, "Whole Lot of Shakin': The Life and Music of Jerry Lee Lewis," that culminated in a three-hour tribute concert at the Playhouse Square's State Theatre; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis's widespread musical influence is unparalleled, and he most certainly lives up to the honorific of American Music Master in every sense of the phrase; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to recognize Jerry Lee Lewis's extensive musical legacy by naming in his honor a segment of State Route 176 (Getwell Road) in Shelby County, where he began his phenomenal recording career with Memphis's legendary Sun Records; 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 segment of State Route 176 (Getwell Road) in Shelby County from its intersection with Interstate 240 at Exit 20 southward to the Tennessee - Mississippi state boundary is hereby designated the "Jerry Lee Lewis Highway" in honor of this American Music Master who helped make rock & roll a household word and then created a living legacy through his seminal recordings and inspiring performances.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 176 (Getwell Road) described in Section 1 as the "Jerry Lee Lewis Highway".

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. The appellation "Jerry Lee Lewis Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Jerry Lee Lewis Highway".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.