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Senate District B

SB 168

Supporting Documents

States that allow Departments of Transportations to receive donations to aid the cost of certain signage.

Legislative research examined similar states that allow for their Departments of Transportation (DOT) to receive donations to aid the cost of certain signage, in ways similar to those in SB 168 currently being considered by the Alaska Legislature.

Legislative Research identified four states—Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, and Mississippi—with enacted legislation that have similarities to SB 168 but are more narrowly directed at signage for specific segments of roadways. While Legislative Research believe our research to be thorough, it is possible that relevant measures in other states eluded us. Legislative Research received assistance in our review from transportation specialists at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Below, Legislative Research highlight the measures in these four states and then provide more detail including relevant links.

- In 2019, Arizona Office of Tourism and Arizona Public Service Co. provided \$30,000 to help pay for 40 signs commemorating the state's centennial of Grand Canyon National Park.
- Colorado allows state DOT to seek, accept and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources in order to preserve the landscape, ecological and ethnographic characteristics, including signs, of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
- Kansas allows the secretary of transportation to accept gifts and donations to aid in obtaining certain highway signs, including for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Highway.
- Mississippi allows signs and markers within the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area to be funded via gifts, grants, or donations.

ARIZONA

The Arizona Office of Tourism and Arizona Public Service Co. provided \$30,000 in 2019 to fund signs commemorating Arizona's centennial. Forty of the signs will be placed, or replace signs that commemorated Arizona's centennial in 2012. According to Arizona DOT, the signs show "Arizona is celebrating the centennial of Grand Canyon National Park, which was established on Feb. 26, 1919, under President Woodrow Wilson."

COLORADO

Under C.R.S.A. § 24-80-803, "(c) In order to preserve the landscape, ecological, and ethnographic characteristics of the old Spanish national historic trail, the executive director of the department of transportation shall consult with culturally affiliated American Indian tribes before posting any signs under this section." Further, the law specifies that, "Subject to the availability of funding from gifts, grants, or donations, the executive director of the department of transportation shall mark with suitable signs, which may include the original indigenous name as a secondary interpretive theme in accordance with the consultations conducted under subsection (1)(c) of this section, significant route segments and sites recognized as associated with the old Spanish national historic trail in Colorado, as generally depicted on the maps contained in the United States department of the interior, national parks service report entitled *Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment*, dated July 2001, and as further refined by the secretary of the interior of the United States, where those routes travel on and cross the highways of the state. The department of transportation may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this section."

KANSAS

According to K.S.A. § 68-1034, the secretary of transportation shall place markers along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate that the highway is the Amelia Earhart Memorial Highway. The secretary of transportation may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining suitable highway signs bearing the proper approved inscription.

K.S.A. §§ 68-1009, et seq. offers additional examples of highways in which the secretary of transportation may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs. For example, the "George Ablah Expressway," "Bonnie Huy Memorial Highway" and "Home on the Range Highway."

MISSISSIPPI

According to Miss. Code Ann. § 65-7-125, state DOT may erect appropriate signs and markers along public streets, roads, highways and interstates within the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. The law also states, "The funding for the signs and markers and the erection of the signs and markers shall be made from any funds available to the Board of Directors of the

Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area or from any gifts, grants or donations received by the board of directors for the purpose of providing the signs and markers.”

Finally, in addition to Alaska, at least two other states—Illinois and Kentucky—are currently considering legislation to allow for signage, under certain circumstances, to be installed on highways under the jurisdiction of the state DOT and funded to some degree by donations. Notable provisions addressing the costs of such signage in these states include:

- Illinois’ SB 3755 would provide that all money received for the construction and maintenance of interchange, bridge or segment of highway signs shall be deposited into the Road Fund.
- Kentucky’s SB 119 specifies that the petitioning body shall bear all costs of signage and installation.

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