

SB

108

<TARGET><BILL>SB 108</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
108</SUBJECT><COMM>HTRA27</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature



Session:
State Capitol
Suite 125
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
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Interim:

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Senator Lesil McGuire

DATE: April 13, 2011, 2011

TO: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair of House Transportation Committee

FR: Senator Lesil McGuire

RE: Request to Schedule SB 108: "An Act naming the Dowling Road overpass at milepost 123.7 on the New Seward Highway the Spc. Stephen "Max" Cavanaugh, Jr., Memorial Overpass."

Dear Rep Wilson,
Please schedule SB 108 for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee at your earliest convenience.

Attached is a bill packet that contains the following:

1. Sponsor Statement
2. Current Version of the Bill: SB 108
3. Fiscal Note
4. Letter to the Governor
5. Letter to Congressman Young/ back up information

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Senator Lesil McGuire

SPONSOR STATEMENT for Senate Bill 108

“An Act naming the Dowling Road overpass at milepost 123.7 on the New Seward Highway the Spc. Stephen “Max” Cavanaugh, Jr., Memorial Overpass.”

This bill was created to commemorate the Dowling Overpass in Spc. Stephen ‘Max’ Cavanaugh Jr.’s memory as a tribute to this hero who continues to save lives.

Stephen ‘Max’ Cavanaugh Jr. had recently returned from Iraq after surviving 300 convoys where he manned a .50 caliber machine gun. He was driving down New Seward highway, near the Dowling Overpass, when he hit a cow moose, two weeks before his discharge, which resulted in the loss of his life. Max was an organ donor and it was mentioned in his obituary that he continues to save lives even after the loss of his. This loss was the 6th human life lost to moose collisions with cars during 2007 and, though no human life is more important than any other, this loss really hit home.

A project was put together to help increase safety in the very corridor where this particular tragedy occurred. This effort was greatly assisted by the Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office, SAGA (AmeriCorps youth program), the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fish & Game. The project area was the West side of New Seward Highway between Dimond and O’Malley. The work area was between the bike trail and the highway right-of-way. This effort was performed for 4 days in October, 2008 where we cut, hauled and chipped 11 dumpsters worth of willow, cottonwood, birch and aspen trees.

The effort now is to commemorate the Dowling Overpass in Spc. Stephen ‘Max’ Cavanaugh Jr.’s memory as a tribute to this hero who continues to save lives.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number 1
 Bill Version SB 108
 (S) Publish Date 3/30/11

SB108-DOT-CRDC-3-25-11
 Title Stephen "Max" Cavanaugh Jr Memorial Overpass
 Sponsor Senator Lesil McGuire
 Requester S TRA
 Dept. Affected DOT&PF
 Appropriation Highways and Aviation
 Allocation Central Region Highways & Aviation
 OMB Component Number 564

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING							

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	10.0	10.0				
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other Interagency Receipts						
TOTAL	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version

Prepared by Brenda Hewitt
 Division Commissioner's Office
 Approved by Mark Luiken
Commissioner

Phone 465-4772
 Date/Time 3/25/11 8:00 AM
 Date 3/25/2011

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

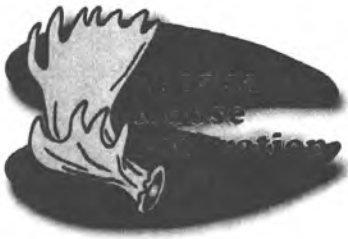
BILL NO. SB 108

Analysis

SB 108 would designate a portion of Dowling Road overpass at milepost 123.7 on the New Seward Highway the Spc. Stephen "Max" Cavanaugh, Jr., Memorial Overpass.

4 small 42" x 36" notices for each entrance internally \$10,000 is recommended by the department.

4 small signs @ \$2,500/ea	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$10,000



P.O. Box 110741, Anchorage, Alaska 99511 (907) 317-2300

MISSION STATEMENT: Believing in the value of healthy moose populations for all Alaskans, The Alaska Moose Federation will be the leader in the effort to both initiate and maintain the quantity and quality of Alaska's moose population.

March 8, 2011

Honorable Congressman Don Young
United States Congress
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young,

The Alaska Moose Federation (AMF) is asking for your assistance with a request to honor Spc. Stephen 'Max' Cavanaugh Jr. by renaming the Dowling Overpass on the New Seward Highway in his memory. Spc. Cavanaugh returned from Iraq in 2007 after surviving 300 convoys where he manned a .50 caliber turret gun. Two weeks before receiving his discharge papers, he was driving down New Seward highway near Dowling when he hit a cow moose which resulted in the loss of his life.

This loss was the 6th human tragedy during 2007 and, though no human life is more important than any other, this loss really hit home. The AMF has been working with the soldier's parents, Stephen Sr. & Susan Cavanaugh of Atlanta, Georgia, the Parnell Administration and key members of the Alaska Legislature on this effort. It has become very apparent that we need your help, given the status of this highway as being a corridor under Federal Highway Administration's oversight.

Attached is a detailed description of the tragedy as well as an effort that involved the soldier's parents, Governor Parnell and others who worked to remove moose browse in 2008 from the New Seward corridor in an effort to reduce future moose collisions.

Thank you for your time and please consider championing this request because, not only is this important for all service men and women, including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also for the Alaskans who have either lost their lives or have lost their loved ones to moose collisions.

If you have questions, please contact myself at (907) 529-5567 or Gary Olson, Executive Director of the AMF at (907) 317-2300.

Sincerely,

Bob Henrichs, Chairman

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Governor Sean Parnell
Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell
Senator Lesil Mcguire
Senator Charlie Huggins

Spc. Stephen 'Max' Cavanaugh Jr. Memorial

The Anchorage section of the New Seward Highway is a known moose collision corridor in the heart of Anchorage. This corridor has a problem of moose browse located within the fenced corridor which allow moose to winter in the area. If you had forgotten, this area was the scene of an unacceptable tragedy in December of 2007.

Stephen 'Max' Cavanaugh Jr. had recently returned from Iraq after surviving 300 convoys where he manned a .50 caliber machine gun. He was driving down New Seward highway, near the Dowling Overpass, when he hit a cow moose, two weeks before his discharge, which resulted in the



**THIS HERO CONTINUES
TO SAVE LIVES!**

loss of his life. Max was an organ donor and it was mentioned in his obituary that he continues to save lives even after the loss of his. This loss was the 6th human life lost to moose collisions with cars during 2007 and, though no human life is more important than any other, this loss really hit home.

A project was put together to help increase safety in the very corridor where this particular trag-



Moose browse removed from New Seward Hwy

edy occurred. This effort was greatly assisted by the Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office, SAGA (AmeriCorps youth program), the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fish & Game.

The project area was the West side of New Seward Highway between Dimond and O'Malley. The work area was between the bike trail and the highway right-of-way. This effort was performed for 4 days in October, 2008 where we cut, hauled and chipped 11 dumpsters worth of willow, cottonwood, birch and aspen trees.

Many volunteers helped with the brush cutting effort including the following workers: Governor Sean Parnell; Cliff Judkins, Chairman of the Board of Game; Colonel Holloway of the State Troopers and also the parents of the fallen soldier Steve Sr. and Susan Cavanaugh who traveled up from Atlanta to help with this effort. We also had solid help from private partners in this effort which included Alaska Waste for disposal cans, Absolute Environmental Services for the donated Ford truck and the donated dump trailer and also the Department of Transportation for the use of the Morbark tree chipper.

The effort now is to commemorate the Dowling Overpass in Spc. Stephen 'Max' Cavanaugh Jr.'s memory as a tribute to this hero who continues to save lives.



Governor Parnell, Mr. & Mrs. Cavanaugh

Iraq/Afghanistan War Heroes



Stephen Max Cavanaugh **Anchorage, Alaska** **December 6, 2007**

Age	Military	Rank	Unit/Location
24	Army	Spc	98th Maintenance Company Fort Richardson,

Vehicle Accident. Stateside. Served in Iraq.



From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer [Seattlepi.com](http://seattlepi.com) 12/07/07:

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6600ap_wst_moose_kills_soldier.html

Last updated December 7, 2007 10:34 a.m. PT

After 300 Iraq missions, Fort Richardson soldier killed by moose

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Spc. Stephen Cavanaugh survived more than 300 missions in Iraq, but was killed when his car hit a moose months after his return to Alaska.

The 24-year-old Fort Richardson soldier was in a coma when he was taken off life support Thursday.

When he returned to Fort Richardson in March, Cavanaugh had brain trauma from the many explosions around him in Iraq and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the soldier's father, also named Stephen Cavanaugh.

The younger Cavanaugh, who deployed to Iraq with the 98th Maintenance Company, was still trying to heal when his car struck the moose Sunday night on the Seward Highway in South Anchorage.

That stretch of the highway isn't well-lit, and seeing something alongside the roadway can be difficult, said police Lt. Nancy Reeder.

"There was a moose - a mom and a calf - that ran out in front of him," Reeder said. "It's one of those things that happens in Alaska. A moose runs out in the dark and there's nothing you can do."

Reeder said the impact flung the moose on top of Cavanaugh's Camaro convertible, crushing him. The moose died and its calf ran off.

Cavanaugh was rushed to a local hospital in critical condition.

The soldier's family was notified and caught a flight from Atlanta.

As time passed, Cavanaugh's condition wasn't improving, his father said. Cavanaugh - known as Max to family members - never woke up and doctors said he never would, according to his father.

Cavanaugh's family decided that taking him off life support and donating his organs would be the right thing to do, and what he would have wanted, his father said. Cavanaugh died at 2:17 p.m. Thursday.

He joined the Army in June 2004 and deployed to Iraq in March 2006, Army officials said. Cavanaugh was stationed outside of Baghdad, where he staffed a .50-caliber machine gun on a convoy escort, his father said.

His family is planning a funeral Mass in Atlanta for Dec. 15. A memorial ceremony also is being arranged on post.

Information from: Anchorage Daily News, <http://www.adn.com>

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Don't Let The Memory Of Them Drift Away

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Alaska e-Post online

PAO staff report

A Soldier from Fort Richardson's Warrior Transition Unit died Dec. 6 from injuries sustained in a car accident Dec. 2.

Spc. Stephen "Max" Cavanaugh was driving north on the Seward Highway in Anchorage when he hit a moose with his vehicle. Cavanaugh suffered severe head injuries in the accident as was on life support.

According to his family, four days after the accident, he was showing no signs of improvement and they decided to remove him from life support and donate his organs.

Cavanaugh, 24, of Lawrenceville, Ga., was a mechanic who joined the Army in June 2004 and was assigned to Fort Richardson in May 2005.

He completed a one-year deployment to Iraq with 98th Maintenance Company in March 2007.



Spc. Stephen "Max" Cavanaugh

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

March 30, 2010

Dear Governor Parnell,

I hope that you are doing well, and by now settled in as Governor of Alaska.

You may recall that our son, SPC Stephen (Max) Cavanaugh, assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Richardson, was killed in a collision with a moose in December, 2007.

You and I met in 2008 when we worked together to clear brush along the New Seward Corridor near where Max was killed. Thanks for being there with us. It meant a lot to Susan and me to know that you would take the time to show your support.

I received a note from Gary Olson at Alaska Moose Federation that he had been called to assist at a moose collision at the very spot where Max lost his life in December, 2007. It seems that, despite our efforts, the moose problem remains in the New Seward Corridor.

Governor Parnell, losing a son or daughter is more painful than anyone can imagine. It was especially tragic that Max was killed while waiting his military discharge after surviving 300 missions as a turret gunner in Iraq. Even after two years, there isn't a day when we don't wonder what might have been, had he come home.

This letter is to thank you for supporting programs like those conducted by AMF and to ask for your continued support. AMF has planned a number of programs, including one to perform the complete removal of all moose browse along New Seward.

Please do what you can to support moose mitigation through whatever means are possible. No one in Alaska should lose a family member if it can be avoided through such efforts.

As always, let me know if there is anything I can do to help. My contact info is below.

Sincerely,

Steve Cavanaugh
4820 Edinburgh Drive
Smyrna, GA 30082

Cell: 404-307-1987