

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 448

2 INTRODUCED BY J. WEBER, M. NIKOLAKAKOS, T. CROWE, S. FYANT, J. SOOKTIS, E. TILLEMAN, E.
3 BUTTREY, M. DUNWELL, W. MCKAMEY, T. RUNNING WOLF, F. SMITH, S. WEBBER, J. WINDY BOY, S.
4 FITZPATRICK, R. MINER, D. HAWK, C. KEOGH, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, J. TREBAS

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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE JIM LOUD THUNDER GOPHER MEMORIAL
7 HIGHWAY IN CASCADE COUNTY; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL
8 SIGNS AND TO INCLUDE THE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ON THE NEXT PUBLICATION OF THE STATE MAP;
9 AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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11 WHEREAS, Jim Loud Thunder Gopher was born in 1885 in Malta, Montana, a full-blood Ojibwe of the
12 Crane Clan; and

13 WHEREAS, after a period of searching and hardship following the Spanish Flu pandemic, Loud
14 Thunder Gopher moved to Hill 57 outside of Great Falls; and

15 WHEREAS, the Little Shell Tribe had historic homesites on Hill 57 just below Mount Royal. The area is
16 within the tribe's congressionally designated service area pursuant to the Little Shell Restoration Act of 2019;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Loud Thunder Gopher was a spiritual practitioner of Ojibwe traditional teachings, and he
19 organized ceremonial practices, including the Sun Dance, Midewiwin, shaking tent, sweat lodge, Round Dance,
20 and Give Away ceremonies. As a community organizer, Loud Thunder Gopher promoted voter registration and
21 agricultural employment; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1942 Loud Thunder Gopher was selected as a member of the Landless Indians to travel
23 to Washington, D.C., with Raymond Gray and Packy Myers to advocate for a land base; and

24 WHEREAS, Loud Thunder Gopher died in 1946 in Great Falls and is buried in Highland Cemetery. His
25 descendants are enrolled in many of the tribes residing in Montana.

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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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NEW SECTION. Section 1. Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway. (1) There is

established the Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway on the existing northwest bypass and Vaughn road in Great Falls from 14th street northwest to 27th street northwest.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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