

CONSENT

Bill No: ACR 96
Author: Rogers (D), et al.
Introduced: 6/11/25
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 7/10/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Assembly Member Patty Berg Memorial Highway

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates a specified portion of State Route 101 in the County of Humboldt as the “Assembly Member Patty Berg Memorial Highway.”

ANALYSIS:

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

Committee Policy:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must be deceased or a former elected public official who has been out of office for at least 25 years.

- 2) The person must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway is located.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the life and career of Assembly Member Patty Berg.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 101 from the 14th Street Overcrossing 04-0245, at postmile 86.501, to Turner Draw, at postmile 89.181, in the County of Humboldt, as the “Assembly Member Patty Berg Memorial Highway.”
- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of the resolution.* According to the author, “Assemblymember Patty Berg was a pivotal figure in the State Assembly, representing AD-1 with passion and care in her legislation and committee and caucus leadership. Assemblymember Berg held a list of leadership roles in areas near and dear, including the Chair of the Legislative Women’s Caucus, Chair of the Assembly

Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, and Chair of the Select Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture. The legislation authored by Berg, including her “death with dignity” legislation and efforts to spearhead a statewide aging plan paved the way for future aging legislation, greatly improving the lives of aging adults. She also had a distinguished career before her election to the Assembly in 2002. She was involved in numerous community endeavors. Berg helped to fund CHOICES, the first pro-choice political action committee in Humboldt County, as well as cofounded the Redwood Coast Music Festival and advocated for Planned Parenthood. The North Coast was in great hands with Assemblymember Berg, and she will be greatly missed.”

- 2) *Background.* Patricia “Patty” Berg was born in Seattle, Washington in 1942. She later graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and social welfare. In 1970, she met her future husband, Patrick Murphy, who passed away in 1987.

Berg made significant contributions to the community throughout her lifetime. She worked for Humboldt County and the Humboldt Senior Resource Center. Additionally, she founded and served as the executive director for the Area Agency on Aging for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, receiving national honors and recognition for her work. In that role, she testified before Congress and in Sacramento for policy changes to support older adults.

Berg also co-founded the Redwood Coast Music Festival, the largest event for tourism in Humboldt County at the time.

In 2002, Berg was elected to the California State Assembly, where she served with distinction for six years representing District One, serving the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Trinity. During her tenure in the Assembly, she served as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, the Select Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Legislative Women’s Caucus.

In 2006, Assembly Member Berg led efforts to require the state to develop the first Master Plan for Aging. She believed so strongly in a person’s right to die as they chose that she authored “Death with Dignity” legislation to allow aid in dying. While the legislation did not pass, it served as the foundation for future death with dignity legislation that passed in 2015.

Berg passed away in 2024, at 82 years of age. She is survived by her brother, sister, stepdaughter, stepson and step-granddaughters.

Writing in support of the resolution, Humboldt County adds, “Patty Berg served Humboldt County, her Assembly district and the State of California with honor and distinction.”

Further, “Twice honored as "Woman of the Year" by state representatives, Patty was a force advocating for women’s equality, later chairing the Legislative Women’s Caucus and working to encourage more women to run for public office. During her time in office, she received fourteen "Legislator of the Year" awards, a testament to her passionate work on behalf of her constituents.

“A memorial highway will be a lasting testament to Assemblywoman Berg’s service to our community and the entire State of California. Patty is deserving of this very high honor.”

3) *Consistent with committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

County of Humboldt

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 7/10/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson,

Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Bauer-Kahan, Carrillo, Flora, Rivas

Prepared by: Melissa White / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
4/21/26 16:19:32

**** END ****