| 1 | HOUSE BILL NO. 448 |
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| 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 |
| 5 | |
| 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." |
| 10 | |
| 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. |
| 26 | |
| 27 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: |
| 28 | |



69th Legislature 2025

| 1 | NEW SECTION. Section 1. Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway. (1) There is |
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| 2 | established the Jim Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway on the existing northwest bypass and Vaughn |
| 3 | road in Great Falls from 14th street northwest to 27th street northwest. |
| 4 | (2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Jim Loud |
| 5 | Thunder Gopher memorial highway. |
| 6 | (3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Jim |
| 7 | Loud Thunder Gopher memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps. |
| 8 | |
| 9 | NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an |
| 10 | integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1]. |
| 11 | |
| 12 | NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval. |
| 13 | - END - |