

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8000

As of January 16, 2025

Brief Description: Extending the naming of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Sponsors: Senators Kauffman, Lovelett, Valdez, Wellman, Lias, Orwall, Hasegawa, Frame, Riccelli, Nobles, Nguyen, Krishnadasan, Stanford and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/20/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requests the Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to extend the naming of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way along State Route (SR) 900 to the junction with SR 515 in Renton, and then along the entirety of SR 515 from SR 900 to SR 516 in Kent.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Daniel Masterson (786-7454)

Background: Naming Highways. The Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for naming state transportation facilities, including highways and bridges. The Commission naming policy states: a naming is done in a thorough and deliberative manner to honor and institute an enduring memory of a person or group of people who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the state or nation and with the widespread support of the people from the area in which the facility is located.

The naming process can be initiated by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), state and local governmental entities, citizen organizations, or an individual providing sufficient evidence to the Commission indicating community support and acceptance of the proposal. Alternatively, the Legislature may pass a joint memorial requesting a facility be named, at which point the Commission will hold a public hearing to

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allow public input. After the Commission takes final action, WSDOT designs and installs the appropriate signs.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929, and was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. In 1986, the Commission approved the renaming of State Route (SR) 900 between the southerly city limits of Seattle to the westerly city limits of Renton as Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Summary of Bill: The Legislature requests the Commission commence proceedings to extend the naming of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way along SR 900 from its current terminus at the westerly city limits of Renton to the junction with SR 515 in Renton, and then along the entirety of SR 515 from SR 900 to SR 516 in Kent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.