
Introduced by Senator Lieu

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Anderson, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Calderon, Cannella, Corbett, Correa, De León, DeSaulnier, Dutton, Emmerson, Evans, Fuller, Gaines, Hancock, Hernandez, Huff, Kehoe, La Malfa, Leno, Liu, Lowenthal, Negrete McLeod, Padilla, Pavley, Price, Rubio, Runner, Steinberg, Vargas, Walters, Wolk, Wright, Wyland, and Yee)

March 26, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79—Relative to the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 79, as introduced, Lieu. Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 1 in the County of Los Angeles as the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway. This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering those costs, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Jenny Oropeza was a lifelong public servant; and
- 2 WHEREAS, Jenny Oropeza was active in her community and
- 3 was elected to the Long Beach Unified School District Board of
- 4 Education, the Long Beach City Council, the California State
- 5 Assembly, and finally to the California State Senate; and
- 6 WHEREAS, During her time as a member of the California
- 7 Legislature, Jenny Oropeza was a champion for public

1 transportation, health care, education, clean air, equality, and
2 prevention of cancer; and

3 WHEREAS, Former Senator Oropeza was so admired by her
4 constituents and community that since her death she has been
5 honored by the Democratic Women’s Study Club in Long Beach,
6 which posthumously awarded her the Political Leadership Award.
7 In future years the award will be called the Jenny Oropeza Political
8 Leadership Award. Additionally, the Long Beach Community
9 Hispanic Association (Centro CHA) posthumously awarded
10 Senator Oropeza the Create Change Community Service Excellence
11 Award, which will in future years be called the Create Change:
12 Jenny Oropeza Community Service Excellence Award; and

13 WHEREAS, In recognition of former Senator Oropeza, the Long
14 Beach Lambda Democratic Club created the Jenny Oropeza Ally
15 of the Year Award, which was, similar to the two previously
16 mentioned awards, first awarded in 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, As a tribute to former Senator Oropeza’s dedication
18 to fostering protections for key state public health programs, the
19 Los Angeles County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in
20 joint collaboration with the six other California-based Komen
21 affiliates, known as “the California Collaborative,” established the
22 Senator Jenny Oropeza Public Policy Internship position; and

23 WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach named the community
24 center in Cesar E. Chavez Park the Jenny Oropeza Community
25 Center and the Los Angeles Unified School District dedicated the
26 Jenny Oropeza Global Studies Academy at the Rancho Dominguez
27 Preparatory School; and

28 WHEREAS, Shortly after taking office in 2000, then Assembly
29 Member Oropeza, became aware that the Alameda Corridor would
30 open in 2002 and all the planned bridges, designed to prevent cars
31 from having to wait for trains to pass at street level, would be
32 completed, except the bridge on State Highway Route 1 (Pacific
33 Coast Highway) in the community of Wilmington, the busiest
34 route along the Alameda Corridor; and

35 WHEREAS, At the time, State Highway Route 1 bisected the
36 Equilon Refinery and was therefore the most complicated and
37 expensive bridge to build. Furthermore, there was not enough
38 funding available to complete the bridge on State Highway Route
39 1; and

1 WHEREAS, Former Assembly Member Oropeza brought
2 together the interested parties, including the California Department
3 of Transportation, the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority,
4 the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Equilon Refinery,
5 the Union Pacific Railroad, and the City of Los Angeles to solve
6 this problem and was able to help facilitate \$107 million in funding
7 from a combination of sources which included state transportation
8 funds, state Proposition 116 bond funds, federal demonstration
9 funds, Metropolitan Transportation Authority funds, and railroad
10 funds; and

11 WHEREAS, Former Assembly Member Oropeza was also
12 successful in her pursuit to have the long bridge built. This design
13 not only eliminated the train and car conflicts on the Alameda
14 Corridor, but also eliminated these same conflicts on Alameda
15 Street and the San Pedro Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
19 portion of State Highway Route 1 that runs between Coil Street
20 and the east side of the main entrance to the Tesoro Refinery, in
21 the community of Wilmington in the County of Los Angeles, as
22 the Honorable Jenny Oropeza Memorial Highway; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
24 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
25 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
26 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
27 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
28 further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
31 author for appropriate distribution.