
Introduced by Senator Hill

March 11, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the Frederick E. Terman Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 30, as introduced, Hill. Frederick E. Terman Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 101 in the County of Santa Clara as the Frederick E. Terman Memorial Highway. The 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 that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Frederick E. Terman was one of the most successful
2 American administrators of science, engineering, and higher
3 education in the 20th century; and
4 WHEREAS, Terman was born on June 7, 1900, in English,
5 Indiana. Terman attended Stanford University, where he completed
6 his undergraduate degree in chemistry and his master's degree in
7 electrical engineering; and
8 WHEREAS, Terman returned to Stanford in 1925 as a member
9 of the engineering faculty and for his first 12 years he was the only
10 faculty member teaching electronics (or radio engineering, as it
11 was called at the time). In 1932, Terman wrote and published a
12 textbook on Radio Engineering, which was one of the most
13 important books on electrical and radio engineering and remains
14 a good reference on these subjects; and

1 WHEREAS, Terman worked hard to bolster electrical
2 engineering and technology in California at a time when most
3 engineering job opportunities were on the East Coast. Terman was
4 elected president of the Institute of Radio Engineers in 1940, the
5 first person ever, west of Pittsburgh, to be elected; and

6 WHEREAS, During World War II, Terman directed a staff of
7 more than 850 at the Radio Research Laboratory at Harvard
8 University, an organization that was the source of various
9 technologies used to counter enemy radar during the war. These
10 countermeasures significantly reduced the effectiveness of
11 radar-directed anti-aircraft fire; and

12 WHEREAS, After the war, Terman returned to Stanford and
13 was appointed Dean of the School of Engineering. Terman made
14 the Stanford School of Engineering one of the best in the country.
15 By 1950, Stanford awarded as many electrical engineering Ph.D.
16 degrees as MIT, with a much smaller faculty. Terman laid the
17 foundations that would make Stanford one of the world's
18 preeminent research universities from which many major Silicon
19 Valley corporations have been formed, including Hewlett Packard,
20 Cisco, Yahoo!, Rambus, Google, and VMWare; and

21 WHEREAS, Terman single-handedly created the university,
22 government, and private industry partnership model that still
23 characterizes Silicon Valley in the 21st century by creating the
24 Stanford Industrial Park, a revolutionary idea at the time, to
25 associate industry more closely with the university. Companies
26 such as Varian Associates, Hewlett Packard, Eastman Kodak,
27 General Electric, and Lockheed Corporation moved into Stanford
28 Industrial Park and turned the mid-Peninsula area into a hotbed of
29 innovation, which eventually became known as Silicon Valley.
30 Terman encouraged the licensing of Stanford inventions and the
31 establishing of faculty-consulting relations as a means of getting
32 Stanford ideas into the core of industry; and

33 WHEREAS, Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard were two of
34 Terman's favorite engineering students, and certainly his most
35 successful protégés. Following his encouragement, they formed
36 Hewlett Packard. Years later, they left behind a Global Fortune
37 50 company that sells products around the world and multiple
38 multibillion dollar charitable foundations; and

39 WHEREAS, Frederick E. Terman passed away on December
40 19, 1982, in Palo Alto, California, at 82 years of age. In his

1 declining years, Terman reflected, “When we set out to create a
2 community of technical scholars in Silicon Valley, there wasn’t
3 much here and the rest of the world looked awfully big. Now a lot
4 of the rest of the world is here”; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
7 portion of State Highway Route 101 from post mile 48.596, at
8 Shoreline Boulevard, to post mile 52.550, at the San Mateo County
9 line, in the County of Santa Clara, as the Frederick E. Terman
10 Memorial Highway; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
12 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
13 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
14 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
15 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
18 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
19 for appropriate distribution.