

ASSEMBLY, No. 1924

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates State Highway Route 19 as “William J. Pascrell Jr. Highway.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** designating State Highway Route 19 as the “William J.
2 Pascrell Jr. Highway.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Honorable William “Bill” J. Pascrell Jr., a man whose
5 service to the State of New Jersey has spanned over 30 years, was
6 born on January 25, 1937 in the City of Paterson; and
7 **WHEREAS**, A life-long resident of the City of Paterson, Congressman
8 Pascrell attended St. George’s Elementary School and graduated
9 from St. John the Baptist High School in 1955, before graduating
10 from Fordham University with a bachelor’s degree in 1959 and a
11 master’s degree in 1961; and
12 **WHEREAS**, An honorable and courageous man who enjoys serving
13 others, Congressman Pascrell began his career in public service by
14 serving the country in the United States Army and later the United
15 States Army Reserve, from which he received an honorable
16 discharge at the rank of sergeant in 1967; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Prior to the start of his political career, Congressman
18 Pascrell shaped young minds as a high school teacher and an
19 adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University; and
20 **WHEREAS**, As a pillar in the community in Passaic County,
21 Congressman Pascrell served in numerous public offices, including
22 as a member of the City of Paterson Planning Board, Director of
23 Policy for the City of Paterson, President of the Paterson Board of
24 Education, Chairman of the Passaic County Democratic Committee,
25 and Vice President and member of the Board of Trustees of Passaic
26 County Community College; and
27 **WHEREAS**, In 1987, Congressman Pascrell was elected to serve in the
28 New Jersey General Assembly and, in 1990, as Mayor of the City
29 of Paterson and served in both positions until 1996; and
30 **WHEREAS**, In 1996, Congressman Pascrell was first elected to the U.S.
31 House of Representatives to represent the 8th Congressional
32 District of New Jersey, until 2013 when the district was
33 reapportioned and renumbered as the 9th Congressional District,
34 which he has represented since that date; and
35 **WHEREAS**, During his tenure in Congress, Congressman Pascrell was
36 appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, which was the first
37 committee established by the U.S. Congress, and was an original
38 member to the House Committee on Homeland Security; and
39 **WHEREAS**, A consistent advocate for the State and his district,
40 Congressman Pascrell assisted in securing funding for the new
41 Passaic County Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic at St.
42 Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in the City of Paterson and the
43 designation of the Great Falls of the Passaic River as a national
44 park; and
45 **WHEREAS**, In honor of his service to the community and the State,
46 Congressman Pascrell has received several awards, including the
47 Mayor of the Year Award from the New Jersey Conference of
48 Mayors and the Legislator of the Year Award from the New Jersey

1 Chamber of Commerce, has been honored by numerous community
 2 organizations, including the Department of New Jersey of the
 3 Jewish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the New
 4 Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, the New Jersey
 5 Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, the Brain Injury
 6 Association of America, the National Association for the
 7 Advancement of Colored People, and Ceasefire New Jersey, and
 8 has received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from William
 9 Paterson University and Bloomfield College; and

10 **WHEREAS**, With an unwavering devotion to the residents of this State,
 11 it is fitting and proper for the Legislature to honor the public service
 12 career of Congressman Pascrell by designating the entire length of
 13 State Highway Route 19 as the "William J. Pascrell Jr. Highway";
 14 now, therefore,

15
 16 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 17 *of New Jersey:*

18
 19 1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the
 20 entire length of State Highway Route 19, extending from milepost 0
 21 to milepost 3.04, as the "William J. Pascrell Jr. Highway" and erect
 22 appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

23
 24 2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing,
 25 purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established
 26 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of
 27 Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other
 28 financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding
 29 or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs
 30 associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining
 31 signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of
 32 this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private
 33 sources, including but not limited to non-governmental non-profit,
 34 educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not
 35 proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of
 36 Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a
 37 responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing,
 38 purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

39
 40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

41
 42

43 **STATEMENT**

44
 45 This bill designates the entire length of State Highway Route 19
 46 as the "William J. Pascrell Jr. Highway" to honor the public service
 47 career of Congressman Pascrell, who has served the City of

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1 Paterson, Passaic County, and the State of New Jersey for over 30
2 years.

3 Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other
4 road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds
5 are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs
6 bearing the designation for the “William J. Pascrell Jr. Highway”
7 The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive
8 financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated
9 with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing
10 the designation.