

HOUSE BILL No. 2605

By Committee on Transportation

Requested by Representative Rahjes

1-30

1 AN ACT concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of U.S.
2 highway 36 as the deputy sheriff Brandon Gaede memorial highway.
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5 WHEREAS, Brandon Pierce Gaede was born on April 28, 1995, in
6 Colby, Kansas; and

7 WHEREAS, Brandon was raised in Colby, Kansas, and graduated in
8 2013 from Colby high school, where he participated in football, wrestling
9 and track; and

10 WHEREAS, Immediately following graduation, Brandon began his
11 career in law enforcement, working for the Thomas county sheriff's office;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Brandon also attended Colby community college where
14 he studied criminal justice and graduated with an associate of science
15 degree in 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, Brandon began working as a sheriff's deputy in Phillips
17 County in 2017 and attended the Kansas law enforcement training center
18 (KLETC), where he was the president of the 247th basic training class;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Brandon was a field training officer (FTO) and a drone
21 operator for the Phillips county sheriff's office. He was promoted to
22 sergeant in 2023 and to undersheriff in 2024; and

23 WHEREAS, Brandon met the love of his life, Karlye Stephen, while
24 working at Phillips county. Brandon and Karlye were married on October
25 20, 2020, and welcomed three children: Axel, Otto and Emilie; and

26 WHEREAS, Brandon was called and responded to a report concerning
27 use of illegal explosives on June 27, 2025; and

28 WHEREAS, While attempting to arrest the suspect, the suspect drew a
29 concealed revolver and fired the weapon, critically wounding Brandon;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Despite his injuries, Brandon returned fire, thus subduing
32 the suspect; and

33 WHEREAS, Brandon passed away later that same day as a result of the
34 injuries that he sustained in the arrest; and

35 WHEREAS, Brandon was honored as the 2025 sheriff's deputy of the

1 year by the Kansas sheriff's association; and

2 WHEREAS, Brandon will always be remembered for being a genuine,
3 one-of-a-kind person. He is a true hero, and his legacy will live on in his
4 family and community.

5 Now, therefore:

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. The portion of U.S. highway 36 from the eastern city limits
8 of Phillipsburg, then west on U.S. highway 36 to the western city limits of
9 Phillipsburg in Phillips county, is hereby designated as the deputy sheriff
10 Brandon Gaede memorial highway. Upon compliance with K.S.A. 68-
11 10,114, and amendments thereto, the secretary of transportation shall place
12 suitable signs along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to
13 indicate that the highway is the deputy sheriff Brandon Gaede memorial
14 highway.

15 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
16 publication in the statute book.