

## **SENATE BILL No. 312**

By Senators Billinger and Bowers

1-12

1 AN ACT concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of U.S.  
2 highway 36 as the deputy sheriff Brandon Gaede memorial highway.

3  
4 WHEREAS, Brandon Pierce Gaede was born on April 28, 1995, in  
5 Colby, Kansas; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Despite his injuries, Brandon returned fire, thus subduing  
30 the suspect; and

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

33 WHEREAS, Brandon was honored as the 2025 sheriff's deputy of the  
34 year by the Kansas sheriff's association; and

35 WHEREAS, Brandon will always be remembered for being a genuine,  
36 one-of-a-kind person. He is a true hero, and his legacy will live on in his

1 family and community.

2 Now, therefore:

3

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

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

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