TEMPORARY & EXECTUED and Note to 27:6-1
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2024 **CHAPTER:** 57

NJSA: TEMPORARY & EXECTUED and Note to 27:6-1 Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

BILL NO: S2876 (Substituted for A4127 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Polistina, Vincent J. and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 3/4/2024

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** --

SENATE: Transportation

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 06/28/2024

SENATE: 05/20/2024

DATE OF APPROVAL: 8/22/2024

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (S2876 Sa (1R) enacted)

ADVANCE LAW Yes

PAMPHLET LAW Yes

S2876

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): Yes Senate 5/13/24 1R

TECHNICAL REVIEW: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY**: No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A4127 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): Yes Assembly 6/28/24 1R

TECHNICAL REVIEW: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY**: Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Copies Available Upon Request

JOHN RUSSO; Staff Writer, 'Acting gov. signs bill renaming interchange for John R. Elliott HERO Campaign namesakeElliott to be memorialized by highway interchange', *Press of Atlantic City, The* (online), 24 Aug 2024 2A‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/19B26A4F78346998›

CL/MM

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T & E and
Note to
R.S.27:6-1

P.L. 2024, CHAPTER 57, ***approved August 22, 2024***
Senate, No. 2876 ***(First Reprint)***

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1]Senate floor amendments adopted May 13, 2024.

pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private sources, including, but not limited to, non-governmental non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

CHAPTER 57

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

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

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 22, 2024.

SENATE, No. 2876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:
Senator VINCENT J. POLISTINA
District 2 (Atlantic)
Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Burzichelli

SYNOPSIS

Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2024)

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

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

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill designates the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to honor the memory of John R. Elliott, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation for the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange." The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:
Senator VINCENT J. POLISTINA
District 2 (Atlantic)
Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblyman DONALD A. GUARDIAN
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblywoman CLAIRE S. SWIFT
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblyman DAVID BAILEY, JR.
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senators Burzichelli, Moriarty, Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblyman Karabinchak, Assemblywomen Murphy, Bagolie and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on May 13, 2024.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private sources, including, but not limited to, non-governmental non-profit,

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[1]Senate floor amendments adopted May 13, 2024.

educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 2024

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2876.

As reported, this bill designates the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to honor the memory of John R. Elliott, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation for the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange." The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2876

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator POLISTINA)

ADOPTED: MAY 13, 2024

These floor amendments change the designation of the State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange from the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to the "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

ASSEMBLY, No. 4127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 4, 2024

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman DONALD A. GUARDIAN
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblywoman CLAIRE S. SWIFT
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblyman DAVID BAILEY, JR.
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Carter and Assemblyman Karabinchak

SYNOPSIS

Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2024)

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

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

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill designates the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to honor the memory of John R. Elliott, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation for the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange." The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 4, 2024

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman DONALD A. GUARDIAN
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblywoman CLAIRE S. SWIFT
District 2 (Atlantic)
Assemblyman DAVID BAILEY, JR.
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblyman Karabinchak, Assemblywomen Murphy, Bagolie and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Designates State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange as "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 28, 2024.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

AN ACT designating the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, a drunk driver hit and killed John R. Elliott, a recent graduate of the United States Naval Academy, who had been driving from Annapolis, Maryland to his family home in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey to celebrate his mother's birthday; and

WHEREAS, The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. in the morning while Mr. Elliott was traveling on State Highway Route 40, east of Woodstown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2023, two new exit ramps were opened, connecting State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295; and

WHEREAS, The new connection between the two roadways is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and will provide a more direct route for travelers; and

WHEREAS, To honor the life and tragic loss of Mr. Elliott, it is fitting and proper to designate the newly-built interchange that connects State Highway Route 42 with Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange," which interchange will improve traffic safety on our roadways; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "[1]Ensign[1] John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private sources, including, but not limited to, non-governmental non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of

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Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1]Assembly floor amendments adopted June 28, 2024.

Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 2024

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4127.

As reported, this bill designates the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to honor the memory of John R. Elliott, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation for the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange." The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4127

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman GUARDIAN)

ADOPTED: JUNE 28, 2024

These floor amendments change the designation of the State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 interchange from the "John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange" to the "Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange."

Acting Governor Scutari Names Interchange at Route 42 and Route 295 the “Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange”

08/22/2024

TRENTON – Acting Governor Scutari today signed S2876, which will designate the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the “Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange.”

Back in 2000, Ensign John R. Elliott of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, was a distinguished graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he earned a B.S. with merit in Systems Engineering. A member of the 5th Battalion, John was preparing for Naval Flight Officer School in Pensacola to further his promising career when his life was tragically cut short by a drunk driver on July 22, 2000.

This bill designates the interchange between State Highway Route 42 and Interstate Highway Route 295 as the “Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange” to honor the memory of John R. Elliott. The interchange, which opened in November with two new exit ramps, is expected to improve traffic conditions on local routes and provide a more direct route for travelers.

“This tribute will honor the life and service of Ensign John R. Elliott, an exemplary young man whose life was tragically cut short,” **said Acting Governor Scutari.** “He was a beloved son, brother, friend and officer who served our country with distinction. His legacy will live on through the selfless work of his family with the HERO campaign, which will help prevent future tragedies and save lives.”

As consistent with New Jersey Department of Transportation policy and other road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation for the “Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange.” Instead, the Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.

“Navy Ensign John R. Elliott was tragically killed by a drunk driver and nothing will bring him back,” **NJDOT Commissioner Fran O’Connor said.** “Naming this interchange after him will honor John’s memory, and bring attention to the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers started by his family, so no one else has to suffer a similar tragedy.”

The primary sponsors of S2876/A4127 are Senator Polistina, Senator Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman Guardian, Assemblywoman Swift, and Assemblyman Bailey.

"U.S. Naval Academy graduate Ensign John R. Elliott exemplified true leadership and served this country with honor and distinction," **said Senator Vincent Polistina.** “We are deeply grateful for the Elliott family – parents Bill and Muriel and sister Jenny – for their unwavering dedication to ensure that John's legacy will forever be honored through this meaningful commemoration. This interchange will stand not only as a vital connector between two major roadways, but also as tribute to John's life, which was tragically cut short in a head-on collision with a drunk driver."

"I am glad to see the Acting Governor provide his signature for this remembrance of Navy Ensign John R. Elliott, a native of Egg Harbor Township and graduate of the United States Naval Academy whose life was tragically cut short due to a drunk driver," **said Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez.** "I especially want to commend Ensign Elliott's parents for their activism in combatting drunk driving, which has no doubt contributed to saving many lives that would have otherwise been lost."

“John was just 22 and had his whole life, his whole bright naval career ahead of him, and it was taken away in a moment by the reckless act of an intoxicated driver who also lost his life that night 24 years ago. I know John’s family believes that if this new connection were there that day, John would still be with us. I believe he is with us in spirit today as we officially designate this interchange in his honor. May it serve as reminder of his lasting legacy to protect others from the dangers of drunk driving,” **said Assemblyman Don Guardian.**

“I know John’s parents, Bill and Muriel, visit a granite cross erected at the crash site every July 22 and smile at the memories they have of their son and all the good that has come from this tragedy. Lives have been saved. I hope they drive this stretch of highway and smile as well. Their son, their loss and the impact they have had on New Jersey’s laws and drunk driving prevention will never be taken for granted,” **said Assemblywoman Claire Swift.**

"At 22 years old, John R. Elliott was on the cusp of adulthood when his life was tragically cut short by a drunk driver in the summer of 2000," **said Assemblyman Dave Bailey, Jr.** "With the signing of S2876, the Ensign John R. Elliott Memorial Interchange will now stand as both a fitting tribute to a man named 'Outstanding HERO' of his graduating class at the US Naval Academy and a stark reminder of the dangers that arise when people get behind the wheel impaired."

“On behalf of our son, we are honored by this legislation in his memory. John was preparing to serve his country as a Naval Flight Officer when a drunk driver ended those dreams. The lives saved by this new interchange will now serve as his permanent legacy, along with the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers and its goal to end drunk driving tragedies,” **said Bill Elliott, father of John Elliott and Chairman of the HERO Campaign.**