



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2003 Assembly Bill 32**

**Assembly  
Amendment 2**

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**Assembly Bill 32** directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to designate and mark the entire route in this state of state trunk highway (STH) 122 as the “Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway” in recognition and appreciation of the life of Harriet Tubman, a leader in the movement to abolish slavery in the 19th Century who led over 300 slaves to freedom in the North on the Underground Railroad.

**Assembly Amendment 2** amends the bill so that STH 122 is designated and marked as the “Ezekiel Gillespie” Memorial Highway, rather than the “Harriet Tubman” Memorial Highway. Ezekiel Gillespie was a leader in Milwaukee’s black community whose efforts to register to vote in 1865 and whose legal challenge, based on the first state Legislature’s passage of a black suffrage law and the referendum on that law in 1849, led the Wisconsin Supreme Court to proclaim in 1866, in *Gillespie v. Palmer*, that blacks had been entitled to vote in Wisconsin since 1849.

### **Legislative History**

On February 3 2004, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 2 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as so amended, on a voice vote. The bill was immediately messaged to the Senate and is currently in the Senate Committee on Transportation and Information Infrastrucutre.

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