

CHAPTER 202

AN ACT designating certain interchanges on the Garden State Parkway in memory of Melvin M. Loftus and Christopher Meyer.

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

WHEREAS, Previously, the signalized intersections at Shell Bay Avenue, located at Exit 9, Stone Harbor Boulevard, located at Exit 10, and Crest Haven Road, located at Exit 11, on the Garden State Parkway were the scene of a disproportionate number of motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, On August 7, 2003, Melvin M. Loftus was tragically killed while he was stopped at the Crest Haven Road intersection when a driver of a box truck failed to heed the traffic signal, hitting his car, and pushing him into oncoming traffic; and

WHEREAS, Melvin M. Loftus, a 66 year old husband, father, grandfather, and former member of the National Guard, moved to New Jersey in 2002 to be closer to his children and grandchildren after retiring from his dry cleaning business that he operated for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, In November 2004, Christopher Meyer was tragically killed in a car accident at the Stone Harbor Boulevard intersection at exit 10 on the Garden State Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Meyer, who was 17 years old at the time of the accident, had aspirations of joining the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Since his son's death, Erik Meyer, Christopher Meyer's father, has been a tireless advocate for removing the traffic signals at the intersections on the Garden State Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Since 2003, several people, including Melvin M. Loftus and Christopher Meyer, have died as a result of accidents at these signalized intersections and, every year, there are countless accidents that occur at these dangerous intersections; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the State of New Jersey have moved into the last phase of replacing the traffic signals at the intersections with ramps to provide full access interchanges and improve vehicle safety; and

WHEREAS, As the traffic signals are removed from the Shell Bay Avenue, Stone Harbor Boulevard, and Crest Haven Road intersections of the Garden State Parkway, it is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New Jersey honor the lives of Melvin M. Loftus and Christopher Meyer and the tireless work of Christopher Meyer's father, Erik Meyer, who sought the safety improvements at these intersections, by naming the Stone Harbor Boulevard Interchange as the "Christopher Meyer Memorial Interchange" and the Crest Haven Road Interchange as the "Melvin M. Loftus Memorial Interchange"; now, therefore,

1. The Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority shall designate the Stone Harbor Boulevard Interchange of the Garden State Parkway as the "Christopher Meyer Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. The Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority shall designate the Crest Haven Road Interchange of the Garden State Parkway as the "Melvin M. Loftus Memorial Interchange" and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

3. No State, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, or other public funds shall be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the

purpose of funding or reimbursing the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with such private sources, including but not limited to non-governmental non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions. No work shall proceed and no funding shall be accepted until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

4. No State, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, or other public funds shall be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 2 of this act. The Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 2 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with such private sources, including but not limited to non-governmental non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions. No work shall proceed and no funding shall be accepted until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 11, 2016.