
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2307

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Fraser and Brumsickle)

Read first time 01/31/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state board on geographic names;
2 and amending RCW 43.126.025, 43.126.035, and 43.126.045.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.126.025 and 1983 c 273 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 There is hereby created a Washington state board on geographic
7 names composed of:

8 (1) The state librarian or a representative of the state librarian;

9 (2) The commissioner of public lands or a representative of the
10 commissioner of public lands;

11 (3) The chairperson of the Washington state heritage council
12 created (~~by 1983 law~~) pursuant to RCW 27.34.030, or a representative
13 of the chairperson; and

1 (4) Four members from the general public to be appointed by the
2 commissioner of public lands.

3 The commissioner of public lands or his or her representative shall
4 be chairman of the board.

5 The members of the initial board to be appointed by the
6 commissioner shall be appointed as follows: One member for a one-year
7 term, one member for a two-year term, one member for a three-year term,
8 and one member for a four-year term. Thereafter, each member shall be
9 appointed for a three-year term. Each member of the board shall
10 continue in office until a successor is appointed.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.126.035 and 1983 c 273 s 3 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 It shall be the duty of the Washington state board on geographic
14 names and it shall have the power and authority to:

15 (1) Establish the official names for the lakes, mountains, streams,
16 places, towns, and other geographic features within the state and the
17 spellings thereof except when a name is specified by law. For the
18 purposes of this subsection geographic features do not include ((~~man-~~
19 ~~made features or~~)) administrative areas such as parks, game reserves,
20 and dams, but shall include ((~~man-made~~)) human-constructed geographic
21 features such as lakes, canals, and islands;

22 (2) Assign names to lakes, mountains, streams, places, towns, and
23 other geographic features in the state for which no single generally
24 accepted name has been in use;

25 (3) Cooperate with county commissioners, state departments, and
26 agencies, and with the United States board on geographic names to
27 establish, change and/or determine the appropriate names of the lakes,
28 mountains, streams, places, towns, and other geographic features for

1 the purpose of eliminating, as far as possible, duplication of place
2 names within the state;

3 (4) Serve as a state of Washington liaison with the United States
4 board on geographic names;

5 (5) Periodically issue a list of names approved by the board.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.126.045 and 1983 c 273 s 4 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 The board is authorized to establish policies to carry out the
9 purposes of this chapter. In determining the names and spelling of
10 geographic place names within the state of Washington, the board's
11 decisions shall be made only after a careful consideration of all
12 available information relating to such names, including the
13 recommendations of the United States board on geographic names, with
14 which the board shall cooperate. In determining the name for a human-
15 constructed geographic feature, the board shall consult with the person
16 or persons who constructed the feature, whenever possible.