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HOUSE BILL 2307

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Fraser and Brumsickle

Read first time 01/14/92. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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

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;

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

10 (3) The chairperson of the Washington state heritage council  
11 created by 1983 law, or a representative; and

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

1 The commissioner of public lands or his or her representative shall  
2 be chairman of the board.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (3) Cooperate with county commissioners, state departments, and  
24 agencies, and with the United States board on geographic names to  
25 establish, change and/or determine the appropriate names of the lakes,  
26 mountains, streams, places, towns, and other geographic features for  
27 the purpose of eliminating, as far as possible, duplication of place  
28 names within the state;

- 1 (4) Serve as a state of Washington liaison with the United States
- 2 board on geographic names;
- 3 (5) Periodically issue a list of names approved by the board.