
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5610

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections
(originally sponsored by Senators Conway, Harper, and Murray)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the board on geographic names; amending
2 RCW 43.30.215; and adding new sections to chapter 43.30 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.30.215 and 2003 c 334 s 112 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The board shall:

7 (1) Perform duties relating to appraisal, appeal, approval, and
8 hearing functions as provided by law;

9 (2) Establish policies to ensure that the acquisition, management,
10 and disposition of all lands and resources within the department's
11 jurisdiction are based on sound principles designed to achieve the
12 maximum effective development and use of such lands and resources
13 consistent with laws applicable thereto;

14 (3) Constitute the board of appraisers provided for in Article 16,
15 section 2 of the state Constitution;

16 (4) Constitute the commission on harbor lines provided for in
17 Article 15, section 1 of the state Constitution as amended;

18 (5) Constitute the board on geographic names as provided for in
19 sections 2 through 6 of this act; and

1 (6) Adopt and enforce rules as may be deemed necessary and proper
2 for carrying out the powers, duties, and functions imposed upon it by
3 this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The board on geographic names is created to establish a procedure
7 for the retention and formal recognition of existing geographic names;
8 to standardize the procedures for naming or renaming geographical
9 features within the state of Washington; to identify one body as the
10 responsible agency to coordinate this important activity between local,
11 state, and federal agencies; to identify the responsible agency for the
12 purpose of serving the public interest; to avoid the duplication of
13 names for similar features whenever possible; and as far as possible,
14 to retain the significance, spelling, and color of names associated
15 with the early history of Washington.

16 The board on geographic names has the following duties:

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

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

26 (3) Cooperate with county commissions, state departments, agencies,
27 the state legislature, and the United States board on geographic names
28 to establish, change, or determine the appropriate names of lakes,
29 mountains, streams, places, towns, and other geographic features for
30 the purposes of eliminating, as far as possible, duplications of place
31 names within the state;

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

34 (5) Periodically issue a list of names approved by the board on
35 geographic names; and

36 (6) Establish policies to carry out the purposes of this section
37 and sections 3 through 5 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The board on geographic names shall establish a committee on
4 geographic names to assist the board in performing its duties and to
5 provide broader contextual, public, and tribal participation in naming
6 geographic features in the state. The committee shall report to the
7 board on geographic names and shall consist of:

8 (a) The commissioner or representative;

9 (b) The state librarian or the librarian's designee;

10 (c) The director of the department of archaeology and historic
11 preservation or the director's designee;

12 (d) A representative of the Washington state tribes, to be
13 appointed by the commissioner from nominations made by Washington's
14 recognized tribal governments. The tribal representative serves a
15 three-year term; and

16 (e) Three members from the public to be appointed by the
17 commissioner. Initial appointments of the public members appointed
18 under this subsection shall be as follows: One member for a one-year
19 term, one member for a two-year term, and one member for a three-year
20 term. Thereafter, each public member shall be appointed for a
21 three-year term.

22 (2) Each member of the committee shall continue in office until a
23 successor is appointed. The commissioner shall serve as chair of the
24 board.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) The committee on geographic names shall hold at least two
28 meetings each year, and may hold special meetings as called by the
29 chair or a majority of the members of the committee. All meetings must
30 be open to the public.

31 (a) Notice of all committee meetings shall be as provided in RCW
32 42.30.080. The notice must include the names to be considered by the
33 committee and the names to be adopted by the board on geographic names.

34 (b) Four committee members shall constitute a quorum.

35 (2) The committee shall establish rules for the conduct of its
36 affairs and to carry out the duties of this section.

1 (3) The committee shall cooperate with the United States board on
2 geographic names.

3 (4) The committee shall make reports and recommendations to the
4 board on geographic names following each meeting of the committee.
5 Recommendations regarding adoption of names may only be made following
6 consideration at two committee meetings.

7 (5) In considering the names and spellings of geographic place
8 names, the committee's recommendations to the board on geographic names
9 may only be made after careful deliberation of all available
10 information relating to such names, including the recommendations of
11 the United States board on geographic names.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The board on geographic names shall consider the
15 recommendations made by the committee on geographic names for adoption
16 of names. The board on geographic names must either adopt the name as
17 recommended, or refer the matter back to the committee on geographic
18 names for further review.

19 (2) All geographic names adopted by the board on geographic names
20 shall be published in the Washington State Register.

21 (3) Whenever the board on geographic names has given a name to any
22 lake, stream, place, or other geographic feature within the state, the
23 name must be used in all maps, records, documents, and other
24 publications issued by the state or any of its departments and
25 political subdivisions, and that name is the official name of the
26 geographic feature.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 The department of natural resources shall provide secretarial and
30 administrative services for the board on geographic names and shall
31 serve as custodian of the records.

--- END ---