

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1079

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
State Government

**Title:** An act relating to naming state buildings.

**Brief Description:** Specifying how state buildings are named.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Romero, Hankins, Haigh, Miloscia, Dickerson, McDermott, Kenney and Edwards.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

State Government: 1/18/02, 1/24/02 [DPS].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- New and existing buildings, public rooms, or spaces on state capitol grounds are named or renamed by the Legislature based on recommendations by the State Capitol Committee, Director of General Administration, and the Capital Campus Design Advisory Committee.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Romero, Chair; Miloscia, Vice Chair; McMorris, Ranking Minority Member; McDermott, Schindler, Schmidt and Upthegrove.

**Staff:** Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

**Background:**

There are no statutory provisions relating to naming state buildings.

The State Capitol Committee, with the assistance of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee, is responsible for fully or partially erecting permanent and temporary buildings, excavating such buildings, or making other temporary or permanent improvements on the state capitol grounds. The Department of General Administration is responsible for the proper care, heating, lighting, and repair of the buildings on the state

capitol grounds.

The John A. Cherberg Building, the Joel Pritchard Building, and the Irv Newhouse Building were renamed by Senate Resolution, and the John L. O'Brien Building was renamed through House Resolution. Other buildings have been designated according to the predominant tenant by the State Capitol Committee upon completion of construction, including the General Administration Building, the Archives and Records Center, the Employment Security Building, the Insurance Building, and the Transportation Building. Other buildings have not been officially named and are referred to by functional names, such as Office Building Two (OB-2), the Executive Mansion, the Visitor Center, and the Greenhouse (or the Conservatory). Most recently, the State Capitol Committee renamed the former Olympia Federal Building as the Dolliver Building after Justice James Dolliver.

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### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

New and existing buildings, public rooms, or spaces on state capitol grounds may be named or renamed by the Legislature based on the recommendation of the State Capitol Committee and the Director of General administration, with the advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee.

Existing buildings may only be renamed after a substantial renovation or change in predominant tenancy. The names on the facades of the state capitol group shall not be removed.

New or existing buildings may be named or renamed after:

- 1) an individual significant in Washington history;
- 2) the purpose of the building;
- 3) the single or predominant tenant of the building;
- 4) a significant place name or a natural place in Washington;
- 5) a Native American tribe located in Washington;
- 6) a group of people or type of person; or
- 7) any other appropriate person consistent with the above criteria as recommended by the Director of General Administration.

An existing room or space may only be renamed after a substantial renovation. New or existing public rooms or spaces may be named or renamed after:

- 1) an individual significant in Washington history;
- 2) purpose of the room or space;
- 3 a significant place name or a natural place in Washington;
- 4) a Native American tribe located in Washington;

- 5) a group of people or type of person; or
- 6) any other appropriate person consistent with the above criteria as recommended by the Director of General Administration.

In naming or renaming buildings, rooms and spaces, the State Capitol Committee must consider 1) any disparity that exists with respect to the gender of persons after whom buildings, rooms, and spaces are named; 2) the diversity of human achievement; and 3) the diversity of the state's citizenry and history. When naming a building, room or space after a significant person or group, it will only be after the tenth anniversary of the person's death or the death of the last surviving member of the group.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

Final approval on naming buildings, rooms, and spaces is made by the Legislature instead of the State Capitol Committee. In addition to the other qualifiers, buildings, rooms, or spaces may be named after significant place names. Diversity of human achievement and the diversity of the state's citizenry and history must be considered in the process. When naming or renaming a building, room, or space after a significant person or group, it must be after the 10th anniversary of the person's death or death of the last surviving member of the group.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** It is of concern that there have been no guidelines to follow in naming buildings and policy decisions need to consider women, as well as others, when considering names for buildings and spaces. Structure and methodology has been absent in naming buildings. Local historical societies have voiced interest in bringing names forward for consideration. The Legislature should consider the development of educational displays to inform the public of the history or significance of the building name.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Dr. Allyson Brooke, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation; and Martin Casey, General Administration.