

## HB 3532 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Beverly Anderson

**Meeting Dates:** 4/21, 4/28

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Historical Society, in consultation with the Oregon Geographic Names Board, to compile a list of highways and geographic features that bear offensive names and recommend non-offensive names to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Removing the requirement to change the names of highways
- Questions about existing lists of offensive names and if proposed name changes have been denied
- Questions about the community engagement process

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Replaces the measure.

Directs the executive secretary of the Oregon Geographic Names Board to compile a list of geographic features that bear offensive names and begin a process of determining new names for the geographic features.

#### Detailed Summary

- Lists tribes and others who should be consulted during this process.
- Requires the executive secretary to provide a summary of the process by which geographic features are named and detailed instructions on how Oregonians can propose new names. Lists tribes and others who should receive the summary.
- Requires the executive secretary to submit recommendations to the US Board on Geographic Names no later than three years following the effective date.
- Repeals act on January 2, 2029.
- Requires the executive secretary to submit a report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to history, no later than February 2026 and provide the list of geographic features that bear offensive names no later than August 1, 2016.
- Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### BACKGROUND:

In 1911, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) recognized the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) as the official advisor and state geographic names authority of Oregon. In 1959, Governor Hatfield transferred the administration of the OGNB from state government to the Oregon Historical Society. The purpose of the OGNB is to supervise the naming of geographic features within the state of Oregon and to make recommendations to the USBGN, which has final approval authority. The Board also serves in an advisory capacity to federal, State, and local governments by reviewing administrative name proposals.