

HB 3532 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Sanchez

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/28/25

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4-3-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Bowman, Kropf, Pham H, Valderrama

Nays: 3 - Boshart Davis, Drazan, Elmer

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beverly Anderson

Meeting Dates: 4/21, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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.
- 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 U.S. 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 1, 2026, and provide the list of geographic features that bear offensive names no later than August 1, 2026.
- Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

The amendment changes the Oregon Historical Society to the executive secretary of the Oregon Geographic Names Board as the entity responsible for compiling the list of geographic features, removes the requirement to compile a list of highways, and establishes the deadline for submitting proposals to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

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 OGNB also serves in an advisory capacity to federal, state, and local governments by reviewing administrative name proposals.