

HB 3532 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Thatcher**Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs****Action Date:** 05/13/25**Action:** Do pass the B-Eng bill.**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Manning Jr, Meek, Pham, Smith DB, Thatcher**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 5/13**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure directs the executive secretary of the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) to compile a list of geographic features in Oregon bearing offensive names and begin a process to determine new names. The Secretary is directed to consult with the OGNB, Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, county and municipal leaders, representatives of state government, local landowners, and interested parties. The Secretary has until February 1, 2026, to submit a report on their progress, and until August 1, 2026, to provide a list of offensive names to specified officials, and must submit renaming proposals no later than three years following the Act's effective date. The measure sunsets on January 2, 2029, declares an emergency, and takes effect on its passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Local role and process for renaming locations
- Highway name jurisdiction under the United States Board on Geographic Names
- Respect for different cultures

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) was created in 1890 and, in its current form, maintains uniform geographic name usage throughout the federal government. In 1911, the 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. There have been efforts to change geographic names considered offensive; one recent example occurred in 2022 when the Department of the Interior announced name changes for roughly 650 geographic features containing a slur historically used against Indigenous women. Fifty-seven of these locations were located fully or partially in Oregon.

House Bill 3532 B directs the OGNB executive secretary to compile a list of offensive geographic names in Oregon and submit proposals to the USBGN to rename them.