

CHAPTER 157

AN ACT relating to geographic names; creating the Nevada state board on geographic names; prescribing its powers and duties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

[Approved May 7, 1985]

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 327 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. As used in sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the term "board" means the Nevada state board on geographic names.

Sec. 3. The Nevada state board on geographic names is hereby created to coordinate and approve geographic names within the state for official recommendation to the United States Board on Geographic Names.

Sec. 4. The board consists of:

1. One representative of each of the following agencies or organizations:

- (a) Bureau of mines and geology of the State of Nevada.
- (b) Faculty of the University of Nevada, Reno.
- (c) Faculty of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- (d) Nevada state library.
- (e) Department of transportation of the state.
- (f) State department of conservation and natural resources.
- (g) Nevada historical society.
- (h) United States Bureau of Land Management.
- (i) United States Forest Service.

Each agency or organization shall designate a representative and one alternative representative for this purpose.

2. An executive secretary who is a nonvoting member of the board. The state resident cartographer shall serve in this position. If there is not such a cartographer, the voting members of the board shall select the executive secretary.

Sec. 5. 1. The board shall designate from among its members a chairman and a vice chairman and shall adopt rules for its own management.

2. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. The board shall meet at such times and places as are specified by the chairman, but may not hold more than four meetings in any 1 year.

4. Members of the board shall serve without compensation, travel expenses or subsistence allowances except as they may be provided by the members' respective agencies and organizations.

Sec. 6. 1. The board shall:

(a) Receive and evaluate all proposals for changes in or additions to names of geographic features and places in the state to determine the most appropriate and acceptable names for use in maps and official documents of all levels of government.

(b) Make official recommendations on behalf of the state with respect to each proposal.

(c) Assist and cooperate with the United States Board on Geographic Names in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in Nevada.

(d) Maintain a list of advisers who have special knowledge of or expertise in Nevada history, geography or culture and consult with those advisers on a regular basis in the course of its work.

2. The board may:

(a) Adopt regulations to assist in carrying out the functions and duties assigned to it by law.

(b) Initiate proposals for changes in or additions to geographic names in the state. Any proposal initiated by the board must be evaluated in accordance with the same procedures prescribed for the consideration of other proposals.

Sec. 7. 1. Any person, group or agency of federal, state or local government may propose a change in or the addition of any geographic name within the state by submitting it to the board for evaluation and recommendation.

2. Upon receipt of any such proposal, together with sufficient supporting information, the board shall:

(a) Place the proposal on the agenda for preliminary consideration at its next meeting.

(b) Give appropriate notice to persons and groups who are affected by the proposal or might have an interest in it.

(c) Provide opportunities for public comment.

(d) Conduct such research and field investigations as it deems necessary.

3. The board may not take final action on any proposal until it has been given preliminary consideration at one or more previous meetings.

4. Whenever the board takes final action on a proposal, it shall notify the person, group or agency who submitted the proposal and shall transmit the official recommendation to the United States Board of Geographic Names.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.