

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 2307

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*As Passed House  
February 18, 1992*

**Title:** An act relating to the Washington state board on geographic names.

**Brief Description:** Altering the Washington state board on geographic names.

**Sponsor(s):** By House Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Fraser and Brumsickle).

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:

Natural Resources & Parks, January 30, 1992, DPS;  
Passed House, February 18, 1992, 96-0.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS**

**Majority Report:** *The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 10 members: Representatives Belcher, Chair; Beck, Ranking Minority Member; Brumsickle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dellwo; Fraser; Hargrove; Morton; Riley; Sheldon; and Wynne.

**Staff:** Randy Acker (786-7129).

**Background:** The Washington State Board on Geographic Names is responsible for establishing the official names for lakes, mountains, streams, places, towns, and other geographic features in the state. The board does not have authority to name man-made features or administrative areas. The exception to this is the board's authority to name man-made lakes.

The board consists of: the state librarian and the commissioner of public lands, or their representatives; the chairperson of the Washington State Heritage Council; and four members of the general public appointed by the commissioner of public lands.

**Summary of Bill:** The authority of the Washington State Board on Geographic Names is extended to name human-

constructed geographic features such as canals and islands, in addition to lakes. When determining the name of a human-constructed geographic feature, the board is required, whenever possible, to consult with the person who constructed the feature.

An alternate member to the chairperson of the Washington State Heritage Council is authorized.

***Fiscal Note:*** Not requested.

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

***Testimony For:*** This bill will help to establish a quorum for board meetings and improve consistency in naming of geographic features.

***Testimony Against:*** None.

***Witnesses:*** Bonnie Bunning, Department of Natural Resources.