

PLACE NAME AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses names of places.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ authorizes the Division of Indian Affairs to help facilitate the application process for changing location names referring to American Indian terms;
- ▶ requires reporting; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

9-9-107, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 371

ENACTS:

9-9-112, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **9-9-107** is amended to read:

9-9-107. Division report.

The department shall include a report of the division's operations and recommendations, including the division's activities under Section 9-9-112, in the annual written report described in Section 9-1-208.

Section 2. Section **9-9-112** is enacted to read:

9-9-112. Geographic place names -- Role of division -- Report.

33 (1) As used in this section:

34 (a) "Location name referring to American Indians" means the name of a place in the
35 state that uses American Indian related terms, including names for places that use the term
36 "squaw."

37 (b) "Utah Committee on Geographic Names" means the committee created by
38 executive order of the governor that has a primary function to act as the state's liaison with the
39 United States Board on Geographic Names and to review geographic name changes and
40 additions in Utah.

41 (2) (a) To facilitate the United States Board on Geographic Names' application process
42 for changing a location name referring to American Indians, the division may create an
43 application template, in consultation with the Utah Committee on Geographic Names, for the
44 following to use:

45 (i) a county in which a place with a location name referring to American Indians is
46 located;

47 (ii) an Indian tribe seeking to change a name of a location name referring to American
48 Indians;

49 (iii) a local community in and around a place with a location name referring to
50 American Indians; or

51 (iv) another person identified by the division in consultation with the Utah Committee
52 on Geographic Names.

53 (b) The application template described in Subsection (2)(a) shall encourage an
54 applicant to solicit feedback from the one or more tribal governments that are connected to the
55 geographic location for which the applicant is proposing to change the location name referring
56 to American Indians.

57 (c) If the division assists a person applying to change the location name referring to
58 American Indians, the division shall direct the person to consult with any tribal government
59 that is connected to the geographic location for which the location name referring to American
60 Indians is proposed to be changed so that a tribal government has an opportunity to provide an
61 official response.

62 (d) The division may bring proposed name changes to location names referring to
63 American Indians to tribal leaders to solicit input from the Indian tribes.

64 (3) The division shall provide on the division's website resources for applicants and
65 information about proposed changes to location names referring to American Indians.

66 (4) In accordance with Section 9-9-107, the division shall annually report to the Native
67 American Legislative Liaison Committee on the division's activities under this section.