

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Local Government & Veterans' Affairs recommends
2 the following:

3
4 **Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to abrogating offensive or derogatory
8 place names; creating s. 267.0625, F.S.; providing
9 legislative findings that certain place names are
10 offensive or derogatory; providing definitions; requiring
11 state agencies and political subdivisions that own or
12 manage geographic sites that contain offensive or
13 derogatory place names to identify such sites and file a
14 report on their findings with the Division of Historical
15 Resources by a specified date; requiring the division to
16 compile such reports and provide them to the Florida
17 Historical Commission; directing the commission to
18 recommend to the division replacement names; directing the
19 division to select replacement names by a specified date;
20 requiring the division to notify certain entities of the
21 name changes; requiring state agencies and political
22 subdivisions to update maps and markers with the new place
23 names; directing the division to place a formal request

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24 with the United States Board on Geographic Names to render
 25 decisions on and update maps to reflect name changes;
 26 requiring the division to provide a report to the Governor
 27 and Legislature containing certain findings by a specified
 28 date; providing an effective date.

29

30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

31

32 Section 1. Section 267.0625, Florida Statutes, is created
 33 to read:

34 267.0625 Abrogation of offensive and derogatory geographic
 35 place names.--

36 (1) The Legislature finds that certain place names for
 37 geographic sites are offensive or derogatory to the state's
 38 people, history, and heritage. The state encourages tolerance
 39 and understanding among all of its residents and these
 40 geographic place names are a barrier to that effort. The
 41 Legislature finds that these offensive or derogatory place names
 42 should be replaced by names that reflect the state's people,
 43 history, and heritage without resorting to offensive
 44 stereotypes, slurs, names, words, or phrases.

45 (2) As used in this section, the term:

46 (a) "Commission" means the Florida Historical Commission
 47 within the Department of State.

48 (b) "Geographic site" means a location or publicly owned
 49 structure in this state and includes, but is not limited to,
 50 rivers and other navigable waters of this state, geographic

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51 features, parks, and state or local roads, bridges, and publicly
52 owned buildings.

53 (c) "Offensive or derogatory place name" means a place
54 name that is a racial, ethnic, or religious slur.

55 (3)(a) By October 1, 2004, each state agency or political
56 subdivision that owns or manages public land, waters, or
57 structures in this state shall identify any geographic sites
58 within its jurisdiction that contain offensive or derogatory
59 place names as defined in subsection (2) and shall file a report
60 with the division identifying those names. A political
61 subdivision shall also include a recommended replacement name
62 for each identified offensive or derogatory place name.

63 (b) The division shall compile the reports required to be
64 filed pursuant to this section and provide a copy to the
65 commission. The commission shall advise the division in its
66 review of recommended place names and in the development of
67 alternative names to replace offensive or derogatory place names
68 with place names that reflect the state's diversity and culture.

69 (c) By March 1, 2005, the division shall choose a new name
70 for each geographic site reported by a state agency or political
71 subdivision.

72 (4) The division shall:

73 (a) Notify each entity that has reported an offensive or
74 derogatory place name pursuant to subsection (3) of the
75 alternative name selected by the division. Each state agency or
76 political subdivision shall ensure that whenever it updates a
77 map or recorded plat or replaces a sign, interpretive marker, or

78 | any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the new name is
79 | used.

80 | (b) Notify the Department of Transportation, the Office of
81 | Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the Department of
82 | Management Services, and any other entity that compiles
83 | information for or develops maps or markers for the state of the
84 | name change so that such change may be reflected on subsequent
85 | editions of any maps, informational literature, or markers
86 | produced by those entities.

87 | (c) Place a formal request with the United States Board on
88 | Geographic Names to render a decision on each proposed name
89 | change so that each new name will be reflected on all maps of
90 | the United States Board on Geographic Names.

91 | (d) Report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
92 | and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by no later than
93 | July 1, 2005, regarding implementation of the provisions of this
94 | section by the division. The report shall include, but not be
95 | limited to, the following:

96 | 1. Each offensive or derogatory place name identified by a
97 | state agency or political subdivision.

98 | 2. The replacement name selected by the division.

99 | 3. Whether any markers and maps have been changed to
100 | reflect the name changes.

101 | 4. The date that requests to change names were filed with
102 | the United States Board on Geographic Names and whether those
103 | changes have been made.

104 | 5. Any other relevant information that the division finds
105 | appropriate.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.