

House BILL NO. 482

INTRODUCED BY

Andy McQuinn, Duane, Plase, Cochran, Kitzberger

HEAVY RUNNER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING STATE LANDHOLDING AND LANDMANAGING AGENCIES TO COMPILE A LIST OF ALL GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND PLACES UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION AND IDENTIFY THOSE USING THE WORD "SQUAW"; AND REQUIRING THE AGENCIES TO REMOVE THE WORD "SQUAW" FROM ANY MAPS, SIGNS, AND MARKERS WHENEVER AGENCIES UPDATE MAPS OR REPLACE SIGNS AND MARKERS BECAUSE OF WEAR OR VANDALISM."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Naming of sites and geographic features -- replacement of word

"squaw". Each agency of state government that owns or manages public land in the state shall:

(1) compile a list of all geographic features, including lakes, rivers, streams, mountains, and other features within its jurisdiction;

(2) compile a list of all recreation areas, management areas, public roads and trails, campgrounds, parks, fishing access sites, wildlife refuges, highways, and other places under its jurisdiction;

(3) identify any features or places under its jurisdiction that contain the word "squaw" and rename them with a more appropriate name;

(4) ensure that whenever the agency updates a map or replaces a sign, interpretive marker, or any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the word "squaw" is removed and replaced with a more appropriate name;

(5) notify the forest service, the Montana departments of commerce and natural resources and conservation, and any other entity that compiles information for and develops maps for the state of the name change so that it may be reflected on subsequent editions of any maps or informational literature produced by those entities; and

(6) place a formal request with the United States geological survey board on geographic names to render a decision on the proposed name change so that the new name will be reflected on all United States geological survey maps.

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for HB0482, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

A bill for an act requiring state landholding and landmarking agencies to compile a list of all geographic features and places under their jurisdiction and identify those using the word "squaw"; and requiring the agencies to remove the word "squaw" from any maps, signs, and markers whenever agencies update maps or replace signs and markers because of wear or vandalism."

ASSUMPTIONS:

Department of Transportation:

1. The Maintenance Department replacement of signs or other markers as they wear out or due to vandalism would have no fiscal affect on the maintenance program. In the course of normal maintenance on the highways, "squaw" signs will be identified and replaced in accordance with Section 1 (4).
2. The Aeronautics Division is responsible for 12 state owned airports with limited geographic features and other places identified in the bill under its jurisdiction. The cost to compile the required lists can be absorbed by the program without additional funding.
3. The Transportation Planning Division maintains and updates the county map sheets including individual sheets, the incorporated cities and towns, and urban plats. As the land managing agencies in the state comply with the bill and identify sites and features with the work "squaw" and rename them, a subsequent change will be required to county map sheets. It is estimated that updating the mapping data base will require at least one week of staff time and an additional week of time spent clarifying and identifying the changes at a total estimated cost of \$1500 which will be absorbed with available resources.

Historical Society:


4. When the Historical Society replaces a sign, interpretive marker, or any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the word "squaw" will be removed and replaced with a more appropriate name. There will be no fiscal impact if the signs are replaced in the normal course of business.

Natural Resources and Conservation:

5. The Trust Land Management Division does not produce maps or name geographic features on its own. It will be necessary to place formal requests with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to change names. It is unknown how many requests may be necessary.
6. In order to comply with Section 1 (1) and (2), and review all six million acres of trust land under state jurisdiction, the Trust Land Management Division would need to review approximately three thousand (3,000) topographic quads covering the state of Montana.
7. The USGS already maintains listings of geographic feature names. The Natural Resource Information System within the Montana State Library has access to the USGS lists. It would be unnecessary to compile new lists.
8. The Trust Land Management Division can comply with Section 1 (3-6) as a normal course of action when maps are utilized as part of program administration and management.
9. The Departments of Commerce and Fish, Wildlife and Parks report no fiscal impact from this bill.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

If the intent of this legislation is to remove the word "squaw" from the name of geographic features, it would seem more appropriate to urge the USGS to conduct the inventories and change the names as requested. It is unclear what the intent or future use of the lists compiled under Section 1 (1) and (2) will be. Compiling these lists will be time consuming and costly. It appears the intent could be satisfied with only Section 1 (3) through (6).


DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning

DIANE SANDS, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0482, as introduced

HB482