

SB 33 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/11/2021 0606s

2021 SESSION

21-0922

04/05

SENATE BILL **33**

AN ACT relative to Native American name restoration.

SPONSORS: Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Rep. Sofikitis, Hills. 34; Rep. Schultz, Merr. 18; Rep. P. Schmidt, Straf. 19; Rep. Horrigan, Straf. 6

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes cities and towns to name or rename locations or geographic features in the Abenaki language; requires the commission on Native American affairs to assist cities, towns, and the state when requested in determining historic or otherwise appropriate Abenaki language names for locations and geographic features; and requires that the commission on resources and development act as the state contact for the federal government for state naming issues.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to Native American name restoration.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Findings. The general court finds that the commission on Native American affairs established
2 in RSA 12-A:14-a is critical to recognizing the historic and cultural contributions of Native
3 Americans to New Hampshire, and the promotion and strengthening of Native American heritage.
4 Therefore, the general court finds that Native American place names are a rich legacy that ought to
5 be valued and visible, and as such, the general court supports local and state initiatives to restore
6 and assign Native American names to places and geographic features.

7 2 New Subparagraph; Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Commission on Native
8 American Affairs. Amend RSA 12-A:14-a, VI by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new
9 subparagraph:

10 (d) Review recommendations from municipalities and the state concerning historic
11 Abenaki language names, and may, when requested, assist municipalities in determining historic
12 Abenaki names for locations and geographic features.

13 3 New Section; Powers and Duties of Towns; Native American Name Restoration. Amend RSA
14 31 by inserting after section 39-e the following new section:

15 31:39-f Native American Name Restoration. The governing body of a town, after consultation
16 with the commission on Native American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a, or with notification to
17 the commission, and with the involvement of tribal groups recommended by the department of
18 natural and cultural resources to determine the historic Abenaki language name for a location or
19 geographic feature situated in the town, may recommend the naming or renaming of such location or
20 geographic feature in the Abenaki language, with approval by a vote of the legislative body. The
21 town shall inform the commission on Native American affairs of its action. To have a name proposed
22 for recognition by the United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the
23 Interior, the town shall submit the name to the New Hampshire geographic names authority.

24 4 New Paragraph; Powers of City Councils; Bylaws and Ordinances; Native American Name
25 Restoration. Amend RSA 47:17 by inserting after paragraph XIX the following new paragraph:

26 XX. The governing body of a city, after consultation with the commission on Native
27 American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a or, with notification to the commission, and with the
28 involvement of tribal groups recommended by the department of natural and cultural and resources
29 to determine the historic Abenaki language name for a location or geographic feature situated in the
30 city, may recommend the naming or renaming of such location or geographic feature in the Abenaki
31 language, with approval by a vote the legislative body. The city shall inform the commission on

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1 Native American affairs of its action. To have a name proposed for recognition by the United States
2 Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the Interior, the city shall submit the
3 name to the New Hampshire geographic names authority.

4 5 New Paragraph; Council on Resources and Development; Responsibilities; Geographic Naming
5 Authority. Amend RSA 162-C:2 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

6 XI-a. Act as the New Hampshire geographic names authority which shall be the state
7 contact for the United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the
8 Interior; and

9 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.