

ENGROSSED SENATE  
CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 94

By: Harrison of the Senate

and

Ferguson of the House

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names to work with local officials to rename geographic features that contain a certain derogatory term in their geographic names; providing for procedures for name changes; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the policy of the United States Board on Geographic Names prohibits the inclusion of words in official geographic names that are derogatory to any racial, ethnic, gender, or religious group; and

WHEREAS, the word "squaw" is offensive to Native Americans, and a national movement exists to remove this word from all geographic names; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature concurs with the actions taken by other state legislatures to remove this offensive word from geographic names; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names is the appropriate body to work with the localities in Oklahoma in which a geographic feature is located that includes, as a part of its geographic name, this offensive language.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the word "squaw" be removed from all geographic names used in Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names work with the Board of County Commissioners of each locality in which the word "squaw"

is used in geographic names to establish a procedure for renaming the geographic features.

THAT the procedure be established in conformance with the principles, policies and procedures of the United States Board on Geographic Names.

THAT the procedure include a method for receiving suggested name changes from residents in the area in which the geographic feature is located, officials representing municipalities located in the area, and officials of Indian Tribes having land or facilities within the area.

THAT the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names submit the name that is selected by each Board of County Commissioners for the geographic feature in that county to the United States Board of Geographic Names for its approval.

THAT the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names work with all federal, state, and local agencies to reflect the approved name changes in maps, signs, and data bases in which the names of these geographic features are recorded.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names, and the Boards of County Commissioners of Blaine, Comanche, Jackson, Kingfisher, Noble, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, and Mayes counties.

Adopted by the Senate the 10th day of May, 2000.

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President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2000.

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Speaker of the House of  
Representatives