



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

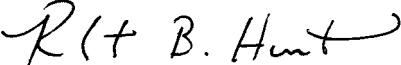
No. 1667

H.P. 1065

House of Representatives, April 13, 2023

An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: DUSON of
Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1997** is enacted to read:

3 **§1997. State Names Authority**

4 The Chief Information Officer shall appoint the State Names Authority to serve within
5 the Office of Geographic Information Systems. The State Names Authority must be a
6 qualified person and serves as a liaison to the United States Department of the Interior,
7 United States Geological Survey, United States Board on Geographic Names and makes
8 recommendations for renaming Maine features.

9 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §1998** is enacted to read:

10 **§1998. State Names Advisory Board**

11 **1. Established.** The State Names Advisory Board, established by section 12004-I,
12 subsection 75-D, shall serve to advise the State Names Authority in making
13 recommendations for renaming Maine features under section 1997.

14 **2. Members.** The State Names Advisory Board consists of 7 members as follows:

15 A. The State Archivist;

16 B. The State Geologist;

17 C. One member who represents a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in
18 the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;

19 D. One member with expertise in the study of cultural anthropology, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate;

21 E. One member who represents historically disinvested African American populations,
22 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

23 F. One member with expertise as a Maine historian, appointed by the Speaker of the
24 House; and

25 G. One member of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and
26 Tribal Populations under section 25001, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

27 **3. Terms.** The members under subsection 2 serve 2-year terms and continue serving
28 until either reappointed or replaced. In case of the termination of a member's service during
29 that member's term, the appointing authority shall appoint a successor for the unexpired
30 term.

31 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§75-D** is enacted to read:

32 **75-D.**

33 <u>State</u>	<u>State Names Advisory Board</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>5 MRSA</u>
34 <u>Government</u>			<u>§1998</u>

35

36 **Sec. 4. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
37 section 1998, subsection 3, initial appointments to the State Names Advisory Board must
38 be staggered as follows:

1 1. Of the members appointed by the President of the Senate, one member must be
2 appointed for a one-year term and one member must be appointed for a 2-year term; and

3 2. Of the members appointed by the Speaker of the House, one member must be
4 appointed for a one-year term and 2 members must be appointed for a 2-year term.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill establishes the position of State Names Authority. The State Names Authority
7 is appointed by the Chief Information Officer within the executive branch and serves in the
8 Office of Information Technology, Office of Geographic Information Systems. The State
9 Names Authority is directed to serve as a liaison to the United States Department of the
10 Interior, United States Geological Survey, United States Board on Geographic Names and
11 make recommendations for renaming Maine features. The bill also establishes the State
12 Names Advisory Board to advise the State Names Authority in making those
13 recommendations.