2001 SENATE BILL 24

January 23, 2001 – Introduced by Senators JAUCH, PLACHE, MOEN, GEORGE and WELCH, cosponsored by Representatives MUSSER, RYBA, MILLER, POWERS, SHERMAN, SYKORA, BOYLE, WILLIAMS, COGGS, SINICKI, MORRIS–TATUM and RILEY. Referred to Committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations.

AN ACT to amend 27.01 (2) (h), 27.01 (5), 28.03 (3) and 81.01 (11); and to create 23.09 (20r), 23.25 (2r), 66.1012 and 84.01 (31) of the statutes; relating to: prohibiting certain state agencies or any city, village, town, or county from using the word “Squaw” in the name of a public place, highway, or geographic feature.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the departments of transportation and natural resources (departments) and any political subdivision (city, village, town, or county) from using the word “Squaw” in the name of any public place, highway, or geographic feature such as a body of water or natural landmark. If the word “Squaw” is currently being used in that manner in any area of the state that is under the jurisdiction of the departments or in any political subdivision, the name of the place must be changed.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 23.09 (20r) of the statutes is created to read:
23.09 (20r) NAMES OF DEPARTMENT PROPERTY. The department may not use the word “Squaw” in the name of any property under the jurisdiction of the department. If the word “Squaw” is used in a name for any such property on the effective date of this subsection .... [revisor inserts date], the department shall change the name to eliminate the use of the word “Squaw”.

SECTION 2. 23.25 (2r) of the statutes is created to read:

23.25 (2r) The department may not use the word “Squaw” in the name of any lake, stream, place, or other geographic feature. If the word “Squaw” is used in a name for any lake, stream, place, or other geographic feature on the effective date of this subsection .... [revisor inserts date], the department shall change the name to eliminate the use of the word “Squaw.”

SECTION 3. 27.01 (2) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

27.01 (2) (h) Designate Subject to s. 23.25 (2r), designate by appropriate name any state park not expressly named by the legislature.

SECTION 4. 27.01 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

27.01 (5) ROADSIDE PARKS. All areas designated as roadside parks shall be a part of the state park system. Roadside parks will consist of naturally attractive parcels of land, 5 acres or more in size, immediately contiguous to a state trunk highway. Each such area shall carry Subject to s. 23.25 (2r), the department shall give each roadside park a distinctive name and shall be managed and developed manage and develop it as a part of the state park system.

SECTION 5. 28.03 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

28.03 (3) DEPARTMENT MAY NAME. The Subject to s. 23.25 (2r), the department may designate by appropriate name any state forest not expressly named by the legislature.
SECTION 6. 66.1012 of the statutes is created to read:

66.1012 Use of “Squaw” in place names prohibited. No city, village, town, or county may use the word “Squaw” in the name of any public place, including a highway, as defined in s. 340.01 (22), a jurisdictional area, a body of water, or a recreation area of any kind. If the word “Squaw” is in use in a public place name in a city, village, town, or county on the effective date of this section .... [revisor inserts date], the city, village, town, or county shall change the name to eliminate the use of the word “Squaw.”

SECTION 7. 81.01 (11) of the statutes is amended to read:

81.01 (11) By ordinance, subject to s. 66.1012, assign a name to each of the roads in the town under town board jurisdiction. No road name may be used on more than one road within the jurisdiction of the town.

SECTION 8. 84.01 (31) of the statutes is created to read:

84.01 (31) NAMES OF DEPARTMENT PROPERTY. The department may not use the word “Squaw” in the name of any highway, as defined in s. 340.01 (22), or other property under the jurisdiction of the department. If the word “Squaw” is used in a name for any such highway or property on the effective date of this subsection .... [revisor inserts date], the department shall change the name to eliminate the use of the word “Squaw.”

(END)