

*Study of the Establishment of  
a Policy and Procedure  
for the Naming of  
State Buildings*



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STUDY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY AND  
PROCEDURE FOR THE NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS

BULLETIN NO. 93-1

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU  
STATE OF NEVADA

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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### STUDY ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS

The Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Establishment of a Policy and Procedure for the Naming of State Buildings recommends that the 67th Session of the Nevada Legislature enact legislation that provides:

1. Unless otherwise provided by the legislature by concurrent resolution, the Governor may name any state property. The Governor may request the input of an advisory committee. If the Governor names a state property after a person, he shall give preference to a person who:
  - a. At the time of making his substantial contribution to the state, resided in the county wherein the state property is located; and
  - b. Made his substantial contribution to the state while serving in the branch of government that will exercise jurisdiction over the state property.
2. If an advisory committee is assembled by the Governor:
  - a. The advisory committee shall be comprised of:
    - (1) One member from the Assembly appointed by the Speaker;
    - (2) One member from the Senate appointed by the Majority Floor Leader;
    - (3) The State Librarian or designee;
    - (4) The Director of the Department of General Services; and
    - (5) Any other person or persons the Governor deems appropriate.

- b. The committee shall provide suggested names for the public property being named. The committee may request or consider suggestions from the state agency having jurisdiction over the state property and from any other interested person. The members of the committee are not entitled to receive a salary. Each member of the committee is entitled to receive for each day or portion of a day he attends a meeting of the committee or is otherwise engaged in the business of the committee, the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally. The per diem and travel expenses of the legislative members must be paid from the legislative fund.
- 3. A state property must not be named after a person unless:
  - a. The person made a significant contribution to the state while in the service of state government; and
  - b. It is 3 years or more after the date of the person's:
    - (1) Retirement from service in state government; or
    - (2) Death.
- 4. A state property may be given a name other than the name of a person, such as, but not limited to, a geographical name.
- 5. Except as otherwise provided, the bill will be applicable to the naming of all state property, including, but not limited to buildings, bridges, highways, monuments, memorials and parks, and any improvements thereto.
- 6. The provisions of the bill are not applicable to the naming of property of the University of Nevada System.



REPORT TO THE 67TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE BY  
THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
FOR THE NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted in compliance with Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26 of the 66th Session of the Nevada Legislature which directed the Legislative Commission to study the establishment of a policy and procedure for the naming of state buildings.

The members of the subcommittee appointed by the Legislative Commission to conduct the study were:

Senator Ernest E. Adler, Chairman  
Assemblyman Joan A. Lambert, Vice Chairman  
Senator Nicholas J. Horn  
Assemblyman Joseph E. Dini, Jr.

Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff services for the subcommittee were provided by John R. Crossley, Director of the LCB (principal staff); Scott G. Wasserman, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel of the Legal Division; and Marcia J. Conway of the Administrative Division (subcommittee secretary).

In this report, the subcommittee has attempted to present its recommendations in a concise form. All supporting documents and minutes are on file with the Research Library of the LCB and are available for review.

Presently, there is no statutory provision, or a consistent policy, to name state buildings and property. This becomes significant with the increase of state buildings being built; for example, the new State Office Building in Las Vegas and future buildings to be constructed with the implementation of the Capitol Complex Master Plan.

Upon the recommendation of the Legislative Commission, the Nevada Legislature formed the study to address this issue.

## II. BACKGROUND ON RECOMMENDATIONS

There are three statutes regarding the naming of state property. One is contained in NRS 338.200, "Prohibition against naming public building or structure after member of governing body," which states:

No public building or other public structure, other than a street or road, may be named after a person who is at the time a member of the governing body which has jurisdiction or control over the building or structure or which is responsible for it.

Another one is contained in NRS 327.110, "Nevada state board on geographic names: Creation; purpose," which states:

The Nevada state board on geographic names is hereby created to coordinate and approve geographic names within the state for official recommendation to the United States Board on Geographic Names.

The third statute is NRS 407.065 which gives the Administrator of the Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the authority to name state parks, monuments and recreation areas of the state.

The executive branch of government has a policy of naming state buildings after former governors which is provided by general fund money. The aforementioned procedure has been, for the most part, followed consistently. The executive branch has not attempted to name buildings provided by non-general fund money (i.e., Employment Security Department [ESD] and State Industrial Insurance System [SIIS] buildings).

Infrequently, the legislature has named a building by enactment of a concurrent resolution.

The University of Nevada System (UNS) has a procedure for naming buildings, dormitories and other properties belonging to the system.

A. AUTHORITY TO NAME STATE PROPERTY

Considerable discussion was held on the proper authority to name state property. The authorities considered included an individual, a committee, and the legislature. The subcommittee decided that the Governor should have the authority to name state buildings. He [the Governor] may desire assistance from an advisory committee for suggestions. The subcommittee concluded that such a committee could be composed of representatives of the legislature, State Library and Archives, Department of General Services and the general public. It was the subcommittee's opinion that the legislature should have the authority to name buildings by concurrent resolution if so desired.

B. STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL

Another major concern of the subcommittee was whether a building should be named after a deceased or living person. The subcommittee recognized naming a building after a living person could be embarrassing to the entity involved if the person is actively involved in the governmental process. It was the subcommittee's opinion that a living person could be considered if that person is no longer involved in government [retired]. Also, it would be required that said person made a significant contribution to the state.

C. RESULTS OF SURVEY ON HOW OTHER STATES NAME STATE BUILDINGS

The subcommittee reviewed the summary of how other states name state property. This is illustrated in Appendix B. It was pointed out that the survey illustrated that most states do not have general laws regarding the naming of state property.

Some states have procedures on the naming of state buildings but not necessarily guidelines. Generally, universities have their own regulations on the naming of university property.

D. CRITERIA FOR BILL DRAFT REQUEST

The subcommittee established the following criteria for a bill draft request:

1. State property must not be named after a person unless:
  - a. The person made a significant contribution to the state while in the service of state government; and
  - b. It is 3 years or more after the date of the person's retirement from service in state government or death.
2. A state property may be given a name other than the name of a person (e.g., geographical name); and
3. Unless otherwise provided by the legislature by concurrent resolution, the Governor may name any state property. The Governor may request the input of an advisory committee. If the Governor names a state property after a person, he shall give preference to a person who:
  - a. At the time of making his substantial contribution to the state, resided in the county wherein the state property is located; and
  - b. Made his substantial contribution to the state while serving in the branch of government that will exercise jurisdiction over the state property.
4. An advisory committee shall give input to the Governor when requested by the Governor and shall be comprised of:
  - a. One member from the Assembly appointed by the Speaker;
  - b. One member from the Senate appointed by the Majority Floor Leader;
  - c. The State Librarian or designee;
  - d. The Director of the Department of General Services; and
  - e. Any other person or persons the Governor shall deem appropriate.

5. Except as otherwise provided, the bill will be applicable to the naming of all state property including, but not limited to, buildings, bridges, highways, monuments, memorials and parks, and any improvements thereto;
6. The provisions of the bill are not applicable to the naming of property of the UNS.



### III. SUGGESTED LEGISLATION

SUMMARY--Establishes policy and procedure for naming state property.

(BDR 27-127)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

AN ACT relating to state property; establishing a policy and procedure for the naming of state property; repealing the authority of the administrator of the division of state parks of the state department of conservation and natural resources to name state parks, monuments and recreation areas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 331 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, are applicable to the naming of all state property, including, but not limited to, buildings, bridges, highways, monuments, memorials, parks and recreation areas, and any improvements thereto.*

2. *The provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, are not applicable to the naming of any property administered by or under the control of the University of Nevada System.*

**Sec. 3.** 1. *A state property must not be named after a person unless:*

*(a) The person made a significant contribution to the state while in the service of state government; and*

*(b) It is 3 years or more after the date of the person's:*

*(1) Retirement from service in state government; or*

*(2) Death.*

2. *A state property may be given a name other than the name of a person, such as, but not limited to, a geographical name.*

**Sec. 4.** 1. *The governor may name any state property unless the property has been named by the legislature by concurrent resolution. In naming a state property, the governor shall comply with the provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act and NRS 338.200. The governor may assemble an advisory committee to provide suggested names for the naming of a state property.*

2. *If the governor names a state property after a person, he shall give preference to a person who:*

*(a) At the time of making his significant contribution to the state, resided in the county wherein the state property is located; and*

*(b) Made his significant contribution to the state while serving in the branch of government that will exercise control over the state property.*

**Sec. 5.** *If, pursuant to section 4 of this act, an advisory committee is assembled by the governor:*



*1. The advisory committee must be comprised of:*

*(a) One member from the assembly appointed by the speaker;*

*(b) One member from the senate appointed by the majority floor leader;*

*(c) The state librarian or his designee;*

*(d) The director of the department of general services; and*

*(e) Any other person or persons the governor deems appropriate.*

*2. The advisory committee shall provide to the governor suggested names for the state property being named. The advisory committee may request or consider suggested names from the state agency exercising control over the state property and from any other interested person.*

*3. The members of the advisory committee serve without compensation except that for each day or portion of a day a member of the advisory committee attends a meeting of the advisory committee or is otherwise engaged in the business of the advisory committee, he is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally. The per diem and travel expenses of the legislative members of the advisory committee must be paid from the legislative fund.*

**Sec. 6.** NRS 407.065 is hereby amended to read as follows:

407.065 The administrator, subject to the approval of the director, may:

1. Designate, establish, [name,] plan, operate, control, protect, develop and maintain state parks, monuments and recreation areas for the use of the general public.

2. Protect state parks and property controlled or administered by [it] the division from misuse or damage and preserve the peace within those areas. At

the discretion of the administrator, rangers and employees of the division have the same power to make arrests as any other peace officer for violations of law committed inside the boundaries of state parks or real property controlled or administered by the division. The administrator may appoint or designate certain employees of the division to have the general authority of peace officers.

3. Allow multiple use of state parks and real property controlled or administered by [it] *the division* for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to, grazing, mining, development of natural resources, hunting and fishing, and subject to such regulations as may be adopted in furtherance of the purposes of the division.

4. Conduct and operate such special services as may be necessary for the comfort and convenience of the general public, and collect reasonable fees for them, which must be deposited in the state general fund. No fees for special services may be collected from bona fide residents of this state who are more than 60 years old. Reasonable proof of age and residence may be required for free use of special services.

5. Rent or lease concessions located within the boundaries of state parks or of real property controlled or administered by the division to public or private corporations, to groups of natural persons, or to natural persons for a valuable consideration upon such terms and conditions as the division deems fit and proper, but no concessionaire may dominate any state park operation. Rental and lease payments must be deposited in the state general fund.

6. Establish such capital projects construction funds as are necessary to account for the parks improvements program approved by the legislature. The money in these funds must be used for the construction and improvement of those parks which are under the supervision of the administrator.



#### IV. APPENDICES

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## APPENDIX A

### ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26 STATUTES OF NEVADA, 1991

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Committee on  
Legislative Functions and Elections

FILE NUMBER.....180

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study concerning the establishment of a policy and procedure for the naming of state buildings.

WHEREAS, There are many buildings owned by the state that are not designated with any distinctive name; and

WHEREAS, There are many worthy citizens who deserve to be honored for their achievements for the benefit of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The naming of state buildings after these citizens may be an appropriate way to bestow such an honor; and

WHEREAS, There is at present no policy or procedure governing the naming of state buildings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to conduct an interim study concerning the establishment of a policy and procedure for the naming of state buildings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission report the results of the study and any recommended legislation to the 67th session of the Nevada Legislature.





## APPENDIX B

### NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM OTHER STATES



ACR 26 - 1991  
NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS  
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM OTHER STATES

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<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
Alaska	No	Yes Marine System	No	Yes State agency that controls.	Yes	Yes Marine	-- Yes
California	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	--
Connecticut	No	No	No	Yes State agency that controls.	--	--	--
Florida	Yes Division may recom- mend several names.	Yes No living person.	No	--	--	--	--
Georgia	No	--	--	Yes State agency that controls.	Yes	--	--
Hawaii	No	No	Yes Universities	Yes State agency that controls. Governor sometimes gets involved.	--	Yes Universities	Yes Universities

<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
Idaho	No	No	Yes Universities	No	Yes	Yes University	Yes University
Illinois	No	No	No	Executive order.	Yes	--	--
Indiana	No	No	No	No	--	--	--
Kansas	No	No	Yes Universities	Executive order.	No	--	--
Kentucky	No	No	No	No	--	--	--
Louisiana	Yes All buildings including university must be named by Legislature.	Yes No living person.	--	--	Yes	--	--
Maine	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	--
Maryland	No	No	Yes Public Works Board	--	No	--	--
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	--

<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
Michigan	No	No	No	Yes Generic name.	Yes	--	--
Minnesota	No	No	No	Yes Generic name.	No	--	--
Mississippi	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	--
Missouri	No	No	No	Yes Board, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General.	No	--	--
Montana	No	No	No	No	Yes	--	--
Nebraska	Yes	No	Yes Proposed name must be by Governor and legislature.	No	Yes	--	--
Nevada	No	Yes No living person who is on govern- ing body.	Yes University of Nevada System.	Yes Governor	--	Yes University	--
New Hampshire	No	No	No	Yes State agency that controls.	Yes	--	--

<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
New Jersey	No	Yes Prisons Local Government's not part of building name.	No	Yes Executive orders or state agency that controls.	Yes	--	--
New Mexico	No	--	--	Yes Committee General Services	--	Yes	--
New York	No	No	No	Yes	--	--	--
North Carolina	Yes Governor has power. Capitol Planning Commission make recommendations.	--	--	--	--	--	--
North Dakota	No	No	Yes University	--	--	--	Yes University
Ohio	No	No	No	Yes State agency that controls.	--	--	--
Oklahoma	No	No	No	Yes	--	--	--

<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
Oregon	No	No	No	Yes Purpose of Building	--	--	--
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	Yes General Services	Yes Bridges Memorials Highways	--	--
Rhode Island	Yes Legislative Committee	No	No	No	Yes All by resolution.	--	--
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	--	--	--
South Dakota	No	No	No	Yes Executive proclamation.	--	--	--
Tennessee	No	No	No	Yes a) State Building Commission b) Board of Regents	Yes	--	--
Texas	Yes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Utah	No	No	--	--	--	--	--

<u>State</u>	<u>General Statute</u>	<u>Specific Statute</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Unwritten Policy</u>	<u>Specific Legislative Action on Individual Buildings</u>	<u>Positive Rules</u>	<u>Negative Rules</u>
Vermont	No	No	No	Yes Department of State Buildings	--	--	--
Virginia	No	No	No	Yes Department of General Services	Yes	--	--
Wisconsin	No	No	No	Yes State Building Commission	--	--	--
Wyoming	No	No	No	Yes Building named after Governor in office when building con- structed.	--	--	--