

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 88—ASSEMBLYMEN WATTS, NGUYEN,
GONZALEZ, PETERS, TORRES; ANDERSON AND FLORES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to governmental entities. (BDR 34-147)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to governmental entities; requiring the board of trustees of a school district, governing body of a charter school or governing body of a university school for profoundly gifted pupils to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of certain racially discriminatory identifiers; authorizing the board of trustees of a school district, governing body of a charter school or governing body of a university school for profoundly gifted pupils to use an identifier associated with a federally recognized Indian tribe in certain circumstances; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to prohibit the use of certain racially discriminatory identifiers; requiring the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names to recommend changes to the names of geographic features or places that are racially discriminatory or named after certain persons; requiring the Board to report annually to the Legislature or the Legislative Commission, as applicable, on any recommendations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill requires the board of trustees of each school district,
2 governing body of each charter school and governing body of each university
3 school for profoundly gifted pupils to change, and adopt a policy that prohibits the
4 use of, a name, logo, mascot, song or other identifier that: (1) is racially
5 discriminatory; (2) contains racially discriminatory language or imagery; or (3) is
6 associated with a natural person with a racially discriminatory history. **Section 1**



7 authorizes the board of trustees of a school district, governing body of a charter
8 school or governing body of a university school for profoundly gifted pupils to use
9 an identifier associated with a federally recognized Indian tribe if the board of
10 trustees or governing body obtains permission for the use of the identifier from the
11 Indian tribe.

12 **Section 2** of this bill similarly authorizes the Board of Regents of the
13 University of Nevada to adopt a policy that prohibits the use of a name, logo,
14 mascot, song or other identifier that is racially discriminatory or associated with a
15 person with a racially discriminatory history and requires a university, state college
16 or community college to change such an identifier. **Section 2** also authorizes a
17 university, state college or community college to use an identifier associated with a
18 federally recognized Indian tribe if the university, state college or community
19 college obtains permission for the use of the identifier from the Indian tribe.

20 Existing law creates the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names. (NRS
21 327.110) Under existing law, the Board makes official recommendations to the
22 United States Board on Geographic Names on proposals for the names of
23 geographic features and places in this State for use in maps and official documents.
24 (NRS 327.140) **Section 3** of this bill requires the Board to recommend changes to
25 the name of any geographic feature or place that: (1) is racially discriminatory; (2)
26 contains racially discriminatory language or imagery; or (3) is named for a natural
27 person with a racially discriminatory history. **Section 3** also requires the Board to
28 submit an annual report on any recommendations to change the name of a
29 geographic feature or place to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for
30 transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is not in session, to the
31 Legislative Commission.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the board of*
4 *trustees of each school district, governing body of each charter*
5 *school and governing body of each university school for*
6 *profoundly gifted pupils shall change, and adopt a policy*
7 *prohibiting the use of, any name, logo, mascot, song or other*
8 *identifier that is racially discriminatory, contains racially*
9 *discriminatory language or imagery or is associated with a natural*
10 *person with a racially discriminatory history, including, without*
11 *limitation, a name, logo, mascot, song or other identifier*
12 *associated with the Confederate States of America or a federally*
13 *recognized Indian tribe.*

14 *2. The board of trustees of a school district, governing body*
15 *of a charter school or governing body of a university school for*
16 *profoundly gifted pupils may use a name, logo, mascot, song or*
17 *other identifier associated with a federally recognized Indian tribe*
18 *if the board of trustees or governing body obtains approval from*
19 *the Indian tribe to use the name, logo, mascot, song or other*
20 *identifier.*



1 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. *The Board of Regents may adopt a policy prohibiting the*
4 *use of, and require a university, state college or community college*
5 *to change, any name, logo, mascot, song or other identifier that is*
6 *racially discriminatory, contains racially discriminatory language*
7 *or imagery or is associated with a natural person with a racially*
8 *discriminatory history, including, without limitation, a name, logo,*
9 *mascot, song or other identifier associated with the Confederate*
10 *States of America or a federally recognized Indian tribe*

11 2. *A university, state college or community college may use a*
12 *name, logo, mascot, song or other identifier associated with a*
13 *federally recognized Indian tribe if the university, state college or*
14 *community college obtains approval from the Indian tribe to use*
15 *the name, logo, mascot, song or other identifier.*

16 **Sec. 3.** NRS 327.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:
17 327.140 1. The Board shall:

18 (a) Receive and evaluate all proposals for changes in or
19 additions to names of geographic features and places in the State to
20 determine the most appropriate and acceptable names for use in
21 maps and official documents of all levels of government.

22 (b) Make official recommendations on behalf of the State with
23 respect to each proposal.

24 (c) Assist and cooperate with the United States Board on
25 Geographic Names in matters relating to names of geographic
26 features and places in Nevada.

27 (d) Maintain a list of advisers who have special knowledge of or
28 expertise in Nevada history, geography or culture and consult with
29 those advisers on a regular basis in the course of its work.

30 (e) *Recommend to change the name of any geographic feature*
31 *or place in this State that is racially discriminatory, contains*
32 *racially discriminatory language or imagery or is named for a*
33 *natural person with a racially discriminatory history.*

34 (f) *Report annually on any recommendation to change the*
35 *name of a geographic feature or place pursuant to paragraph (e)*
36 *and submit the report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*
37 *Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is*
38 *not in session, to the Legislative Commission.*

39 2. The Board may:

40 (a) Adopt regulations to assist in carrying out the functions and
41 duties assigned to it by law.

42 (b) Initiate proposals for changes in or additions to geographic
43 names in the State. Any proposal initiated by the Board must be
44 evaluated in accordance with the same procedures prescribed for the
45 consideration of other proposals.



1 **Sec. 4.** 1. The board of trustees of each school district,
2 governing body of each charter school and governing body of each
3 university school for profoundly gifted pupils shall adopt the policy
4 required by section 1 of this act and change any applicable name,
5 logo, mascot, song or other identifier on or before July 1, 2022.

6 2. The Nevada State Board on Geographic Names shall
7 recommend the change of the names of any applicable geographic
8 features or places in this State as required by NRS 327.140, as
9 amended by section 3 of this act, on or before December 1, 2022.

10 **Sec. 5.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
11 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
12 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

