

H.880

An act relating to Abenaki place names on State park signs

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 2613 is added to read:

§ 2613. ABENAKI PLACE NAMES IN STATE PARKS

The Commissioner, before installing new signs or replacing existing signs in a State park, shall consult with the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs to determine if there is an Abenaki name for any site within the park. If the Commission on Native American Affairs advises the Commissioner of an Abenaki name, the Abenaki name shall be displayed with the English name.

Sec. 2. LIST OF PLACES WITH ABENAKI NAMES

On or before March 15, 2021, the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs shall prepare a list of places and landmarks with Abenaki names. If there are multiple names or spelling variations for a place, the Commission shall select a name or spelling to be used on signs in State parks. The Commission shall present the list to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation in order to facilitate the construction of signs as required under 10 V.S.A. § 2613. The Commission shall also determine if there are sites outside of State parks with Abenaki names for which new signs should be considered.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.