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H.406

Introduced by Representative Headrick of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public property and supplies; names of State facilities

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit naming State buildings and facilities after individuals.

An act relating to naming State buildings and facilities after individuals

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

(a) The process of naming State buildings and facilities is inherently influenced by the politics of the day.

(b) The General Assembly has sought to delegate its responsibility to name State buildings and facilities to an administrative committee through the creation of the State Building Naming Study Committee in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 21, but that legislation has met resistance and the implementation of the Committee has been administratively onerous.

(c) Recent requests to name State buildings within the Capitol Complex have raised concerns about setting a precedent that could lead to further constituent-driven proposals, creating a burdensome and contentious process.

1 (d) Historical inequities have prevented individuals from marginalized
2 communities from achieving the level of recognition typically required for
3 consideration in the naming process. To date, all State buildings named after
4 individuals have been named exclusively after White men.

5 (e) The General Assembly finds that the process of naming State buildings
6 and facilities is fraught with challenges, including political influence,
7 inequitable representation, and administrative burden. To address these
8 concerns, the General Assembly enacts this legislation prohibiting naming
9 State buildings or facilities after individuals.

10 Sec. 2. 29 V.S.A. § 820 is amended to read:

11 § 820. THE NAMING OF STATE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

12 (a) Except for State transportation buildings and facilities named by the
13 Transportation Board in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 5, the name by which a
14 State building or facility is to be known shall be authorized by the General
15 Assembly.

16 (b) The General Assembly shall not authorize any request to name a State
17 building or facility after an individual that has not been formally approved by
18 the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2025.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.