

## CHAPTER 27

### NAMES OF PLACES

#### §1101. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings: [PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §5 (AMD).]

**1. Offensive name.** "Offensive name" means a name of a place that includes:

A. The designation "nigger" or "squaw" or any derivation of "squaw" as a separate word or as part of a word or phrase; or [PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

B. The designation "squa" or any derivation of "squa" as a separate word or as a separate syllable in a word. [PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Place.** "Place" means any natural geographic feature or any street, alley or other road within the jurisdiction of the State, or any political subdivision of the State.

[PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 127, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 541, §A5 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 613, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §D3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).

#### §1102. Offensive names prohibited

**1. Place in State may not have offensive name.** A place in this State may not have or be given an offensive name.

[PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Sign on interstate highway or Maine Turnpike may not contain offensive name.** A sign placed by the State on an interstate highway or the Maine Turnpike may not contain an offensive name.

[PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (RPR).

#### §1103. Complaint filed

Any person who believes that a place has an offensive name may file a complaint with the Maine Human Rights Commission. Any such complaint filed with this commission shall be subject to the provisions included in Title 5, section 4632. [PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).

#### §1104. Responsibility of municipal officers and county commissioners

The municipal officers of the municipality or the county commissioners responsible for the unorganized territory, in which a place is found pursuant to Title 5, section 4632, to have an offensive name, shall have the following responsibilities: [PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

**1. Reasonable actions.** They shall take whatever reasonable actions are required to complete a change in the offensive name. They may hold public hearings on selecting a new name; and

[PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Notification.** Unless a court order is issued under Title 5, section 4632 specifying a different deadline, within 6 months of the determination that the place has an offensive name, they shall provide notice of the new name to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and other public agencies, boards, committees or other groups responsible for changing names of places and for ensuring that such name changes appear on maps and other public documents.

[PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

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