



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.C.M. 1003

Grand Canyon; monuments; rename

Purpose

Requests the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (U.S. BGN) to rename the geographic features in the Grand Canyon with traditional Native American names.

Background

Federal law requires the U.S. BGN, with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), to provide uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the federal government. The U.S. BGN must, subject to Secretary approval: 1) formulate principles, policies and procedures regarding domestic and foreign geographic names; and 2) decide standard names and their orthography for official use. The U.S. BGN determines the standard for all materials regarding geographic names published by the federal government (43 U.S.C. §§ [364](#) – [364e](#)).

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (State Board) assists and cooperates with the U.S. BGN in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in Arizona ([A.R.S. 41-835.03](#)). When the State Board moves forward with a proposal, the State Board must: 1) notify the person, group or agency that submitted the proposal; and 2) transmit the official recommendation to the U.S. BGN ([A.R.S. 41-835.04](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requests the U.S. BGN to rename the geographic features in the Grand Canyon with traditional Native American names.
2. Directs the Secretary of State to transmit copies of the Memorial to the Chairperson of the U.S. BGN.

Prepared by Senate Research
February 4, 2022
RC/MAH/slp