

CHAPTER 378

BODIES OF WATER

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**378.01 NAMING LAKES, RIVERS, STREAMS, AND BODIES OF WATER; PETITION.** When it is desired to change the name of, or give a name to, any unnamed lake, river, stream, or body of water located within the boundaries of this state, the State Geographic Board, or any 15 or more legal voters residing within the county where all or any part of such body of water is located, may petition the county board of the county wherein the petitioners reside, or in which the body of water is located, to change the name of, or to give a name to, any previously unnamed lake, river, stream, or other body of water, however designated. The petitioners shall describe, in their petition with reasonable correctness, the location of any such lake, river, stream, or other body of water; the name, if any, by which it may then be known, or if without any name, such fact shall be stated; the name or names which the petitioners desire given to the body of water; and the reason for such change of name or for giving the designated name to any previously unnamed body of water. The petitioners shall set out after each of their names, as signed to the petition, their place of residence. No name of any lake, river, stream, or other body of water, which name has existed for 40 years, shall be changed under the provision of sections 378.01 to 378.06.

[1925 c. 157 s. 1; 1937 c. 35 s. 1] (751-2)

**378.02 HEARINGS BY COUNTY BOARD.** On the filing of such petition with the auditor of the county wherein the petitioners reside, or in which the body of water is located, and presenting therewith the necessary copies thereof hereafter required, such auditor shall present the petition to the county board of the county, which board shall by order fix the day and place of hearing on the petition to be held more than 30 days thereafter, of which hearing at least three weeks' published notice shall be given in the newspaper designated by the county board as the official newspaper for the county; provided that the hearing may be held at any convenient place within the county, as shall be determined by the board. On the day fixed for the hearing any legal voters in the county, or any municipality, may appear, by attorney or in person, and file an answer to the petition, setting out in plain concise language why the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted in whole or in part, and, may in the answer pray the county board to give another or different name to the lake, river, stream, or other body of water than the one prayed for in the original petition. The petitioners may include in the petition any number of lakes, rivers, streams, or other bodies of water, the names of which they may petition to have changed, or any number of previously unnamed lakes, rivers, streams, or other bodies of water which they may desire to have given a name by the board in the proceedings, and the same procedure shall be had on the petition in such event as though only one lake, river, stream, or other body of water be described in the petition.

[1925 c. 157 s. 2; 1937 c. 35 s. 1] (751-3)

**378.03 NOTICES OF HEARINGS.** Notice of the time and place of hearing on any such petition shall also be served on the State Geographic Board and personally on the chairman of the town board of any town, on the president of any village board of trustees, and on the mayor of any city within or adjoining limits of which political subdivision any such lake, river, stream, or other body of water involved in the hearing may be located and it shall be the duty of such official on whom the notice of hearing shall be served, to present such notice to the board or council who shall take such action thereon as they shall deem to be for the public interest.

[1925 c. 157 s. 3; 1937 c. 35 s. 1] (751-4)

**378.04 HEARINGS; PROCEDURE; WATERS IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTY.**

At the time fixed by the notice of hearing on the petition, or at any time to which the hearing may be adjourned by the county board, the board shall hear all parties desiring to be heard thereon and shall make an order, by resolution, fixing and determining the name which any lake, river, stream, or other body of water described in the petition shall have and bear, and the name so fixed by the board shall be the name of such lake, river, stream, or other body of water and such designation shall thereafter be used and followed as its legal name. If any petition so filed shall describe a lake, river, stream, or other body of water located within the boundaries of more than one county, then the county boards of the several counties affected shall act jointly and as one body, a majority of such joint body being sufficient to determine upon a name; the county auditor with whom such a petition shall be filed shall forward by mail a certified copy of the same to the auditor of each of the counties so affected, who shall present same to the respective county boards, and the notice of hearing thereon determined upon by the joint body shall be published in each such county as provided in section 378.02. The auditor of the county in which the petition was filed shall make and file certified copies of the resolution so adopted in the office of the register of deeds of each county affected at the expense of the petitioners.

[1925 c. 157 s. 4] (751-5)

**378.05 NAMES NOT TO BE DUPLICATED.** In choosing and fixing the name of any river, lake, stream, or other body of water, the county board or boards shall, as far as possible, not duplicate names of existing lakes, rivers, streams, or other bodies of water, and shall select and approve such names therefor, as shall in their judgment be for the permanent good and best interests of the county or counties affected. To that end, the auditor of the county wherein a petition shall be filed shall cause a copy thereof, together with a copy of the notice of hearing thereon, to be forwarded by mail to the director of water resources and engineering, who shall compare the names suggested in the petition with the names of other lakes, rivers, streams, or bodies of water within the state and report back to the auditor before the date of the hearing, his findings and recommendations.

[1925 c. 157 s. 5] (751-6)

**378.06 PETITIONERS TO GIVE BONDS.** Before any such petition shall be acted upon or the notice of hearing given, the petitioners shall give a bond to be approved by the county attorney of the county wherein the petition has been filed, conditioned upon the full payment of all reasonable expenses which the county or counties shall incur in such proceeding; provided, that the State Geographic Board shall not be required to give bond hereunder.

[1925 c. 157 s. 6; 1937 c. 35 s. 1] (751-7)

**378.07** [Repealed, 1947 c 123 s 7]

**378.08 LAND ACQUIRED, ACCESS TO NAVIGABLE WATERS; PARK AND PLAYGROUND.** The county board of any county may acquire by purchase, gift, or devise, land contiguous to the meander line of any navigable lake or stream wholly or partly within such county but not entirely within the corporate limits of any city or village, and not exceeding ten acres in area, for public access to such lake or stream, and may improve, equip, and maintain the same as a park and playground.

[1925 c. 254] (751-1)

**378.09 FISH SCREENS.** When the whole or major part of any navigable lake which has been stocked with fish by the United States government is situated in a single county, the county board thereof, in order to maintain such fish therein and prevent their escape therefrom, may erect and maintain, at the inlets and outlets thereof, screens necessary for such purpose, and such county board shall have power to appropriate from the county treasury all necessary moneys for the erection and maintenance of such screens; when such lake is situated in two or more counties, the county boards thereof may jointly provide for the erection and maintenance of such screens, the expense thereof to be borne equally between such counties, and such county boards shall have power to appropriate from the county treasury of their respective counties all necessary moneys for such purpose.

[1913 c. 87 s. 1] (752)

**378.10** [Local, Hennepin and Ramsey counties]

**378.11** [Local, Hennepin and Ramsey counties]

**378.12** [Local, Hennepin and Ramsey counties]

**378.13** [Local, Hennepin and Ramsey counties]

**378.14** [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73]

**378.15** [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73]

**378.16** [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73]

**378.17** [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73]

**378.18** [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

**378.19** [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

**378.20 BATHING BEACHES.** Subdivision 1. **Bathing beach.** A public bathing beach, as the term is used in this section, shall be taken to mean any public land, road or highway adjoining public waters, which have been or may be used for bathing or swimming, or any privately owned place which the public is permitted to frequent or use for bathing.

Subd. 2. **Hennepin county, unlawful to bathe at public beaches at certain times.** In all counties which now have or shall hereafter have a population of 450,000 or more, it shall be unlawful for any person to frequent a public bathing beach or public waters upon which the same immediately borders for the purpose of swimming or bathing, or congregating with others, or to swim or bathe or congregate thereat, between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the day following.

Subd. 3. **Hennepin county, regulatory ordinances.** The governing bodies or boards of all counties having a population of more than 450,000, and all cities, villages, and towns situated within such counties, shall have authority, by ordinance, resolution, or bylaw, to regulate the use of public bathing beaches and public waters immediately bordering thereon for the purpose of bathing or swimming or congregating with the others thereat, within their respective territorial limits, not inconsistent herewith.

Subd. 4. **May close beaches.** If any such body or board shall reasonably determine that the safety, health, morals, or general welfare of the public shall so require, it may, by ordinance, resolution, or by-law, provide that any such public bathing beach shall be closed to bathing, swimming, and congregating after the hour of 9:00 p.m., or after any time between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. of any day.

Subd. 5. **Not restrictive.** Nothing in this section shall limit or abrogate any of the existing powers of any body or governing board of any county, city, village, or town.

Subd. 6. **Penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1933 c 364 s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7] (10278-3, 10278-4, 10278-5, 10278-6, 10278-7, 10278-9)

**378.21 GUARDING ICE-CUTTING.** Every person cutting ice in or upon any waters wholly or partly in the state, for the purpose of removing the ice, at or before the time of commencing such cutting, shall surround the cuttings and openings with fences or guards sufficient to warn all persons of the same, and shall maintain such fence or guard until the ice has again formed in such openings to the thickness of at least six inches. Every such person who shall fail to comply with any requirement of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[R L s 5006] (10268)