

**PALEONTOLOGICAL LANDMARK AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison**

Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to paleontological landmarks.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the process to designate a state paleontological landmark;
- ▶ addresses ownership and control of a state paleontological landmark;
- ▶ amends the permitting requirements to excavate on a privately owned paleontological landmark; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**79-3-505**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 188

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **79-3-505** is amended to read:

**79-3-505. Paleontological landmarks.**



28 (1) (a) [~~Sites~~] A site of significance or [sites] a site with exceptional fossils may be  
29 designated as a state paleontological landmark by:

30 (i) [~~recommended to and approved by the board as state paleontological landmarks]~~  
31 recommendation to and approval of the board; or

32 (ii) approval of the Legislature and the governor through concurrent resolution.

33 (b) ~~Ĥ→~~ **(i) The governor shall notify the board if a concurrent resolution described in**  
33a **Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is introduced by the Legislature.**

33b **(ii) If the board receives a recommendation described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) or notice**  
33c **described in Subsection (1)(b)(i), the survey may prepare a report on the impacts of the**  
33d **proposed state paleontological landmark and submit the report to the Legislature and the**  
33e **governor.**

33f (c) ←Ĥ No privately owned site, a site on school or institutional trust lands, or a site on  
34 lands owned or controlled by a city that has a paleontology museum may be so designated  
35 without the written consent of the owner or the trust.

36 ~~Ĥ→~~ ~~(e)~~ (d) ←Ĥ The ownership or control of a site or the site's fossils does not change  
36a upon  
37 designation as a state paleontological landmark.

38 (2) A person may not excavate on a privately owned [~~designated~~] state paleontological  
39 landmark without a permit from the survey unless the landmark is located in a city with a  
40 paleontological museum that employs a paleontologist.

41 (3) Before an alteration is commenced on a [~~designated~~] state paleontological  
42 landmark, three months notice of intent to alter the site shall be given the survey.

43 Section 2. **Effective date.**

44 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.