

1 PALEONTOLOGICAL LANDMARK AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison

Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson



3 LONG TITLE

4 General Description:

5 This bill modifies provisions related to paleontological landmarks.

6 Highlighted Provisions:

7 This bill:

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

13 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

14 None

15 Other Special Clauses:

16 None

17 Utah Code Sections Affected:

18 AMENDS:

19 79-3-505, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 188



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

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

23 79-3-505 . Paleontological landmarks.

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

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

- 28           (ii) approval of the Legislature and the governor through concurrent resolution.
- 29           (b) (i) The director shall notify the board if a concurrent resolution described in
- 30           Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is introduced by the Legislature.
- 31           (ii) If the board receives a recommendation described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) or notice
- 32           described in Subsection (1)(b)(i), the survey may prepare a report on the impacts
- 33           of the proposed state paleontological landmark and submit the report to the
- 34           Legislature and the governor.
- 35           ~~(b)~~ (c) No privately owned site, a site on school or institutional trust lands, or a site on
- 36           lands owned or controlled by a city that has a paleontology museum may be so
- 37           designated without the written consent of the owner or the trust.
- 38           (d) The ownership or control of a site or the site's fossils does not change upon
- 39           designation as a state paleontological landmark.
- 40           (2) A person may not excavate on a privately owned ~~designated~~ state paleontological
- 41           landmark without a permit from the survey unless the landmark is located in a city with
- 42           a paleontological museum that employs a paleontologist.
- 43           (3) Before an alteration is commenced on a ~~designated~~ state paleontological landmark,
- 44           three months notice of intent to alter the site shall be given the survey.
- 45           Section 2. **Effective date.**
- 46           This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.