

Representative Joseph Elison proposes the following substitute bill:

PALEONTOLOGICAL LANDMARK AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison

Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

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

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



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

27 **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) (i) The director shall notify the board if a concurrent resolution described in
34 Subsection (1)(a)(ii) is introduced by the Legislature.

35 (ii) If the board receives a recommendation described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) or notice
36 described in Subsection (1)(b)(i), the survey may prepare a report on the impacts of the
37 proposed state paleontological landmark and submit the report to the Legislature and the
38 governor.

39 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) No privately owned site, a site on school or institutional trust lands, or a site
40 on lands owned or controlled by a city that has a paleontology museum may be so designated
41 without the written consent of the owner or the trust.

42 (d) The ownership or control of a site or the site's fossils does not change upon
43 designation as a state paleontological landmark.

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

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

49 Section 2. **Effective date.**

50 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.