

**PALEONTOLOGICAL LANDMARK AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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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) 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 (c) The ownership or control of a site or the site's fossils does not change 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.