

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1088

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to the state fossil.

Brief Description: Designating Mammuthus primigenius as the official fossil of the state of Washington.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives Sheahan and Schoesler).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Government Administration: 1/31/97 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/17/97, 95-0;

Passed House: 1/16/98, 89-0.

Passed Legislature.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives D. Schmidt, Chairman; D. Sommers, Vice Chairman; Scott, Ranking Minority Member; Gardner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Doumit; Dunn; Dunshee; Reams; Smith; L. Thomas; Wensman and Wolfe.

Staff: Steve Lundin (786-7127).

Background: Washington has designated several official ceremonial symbols over the years. These include the state fish, steelhead trout; the state gem, petrified wood; and the state folk song, "Roll On Columbia, Roll On." Washington does not have an official state fossil. Other states have designated state fossils, including the saber-toothed cat in California and the Hagerman Horse Fossil in Idaho.

Summary of Bill: The Columbian mammoth (Mammuthus COLUMBI) is designated as the official fossil of the state of Washington.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Remains of the Columbian mammoth have been found throughout the state, and therefore this is a fossil that represents the entire state. When our young people are excited about a school project, we should support them. It would be colossal to have a state fossil.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Sheahan, prime sponsor; Sara Jane Aebly, second grade teacher, Windsor Elementary School; and Chris Pineo, student at Windsor Elementary School.