
HOUSE BILL 1020

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Morgan, Callan, Ryu, Simmons, Reed, Gregerson, Thai, and Ormsby

Prefiled 12/08/22. Read first time 01/09/23. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state dinosaur; adding a new section to
2 chapter 1.20 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Sucasaurus
5 rex, the first and, as of the effective date of this section, only
6 dinosaur discovered in Washington state, should be designated as the
7 state dinosaur. In May 2012, paleontologists discovered a portion of
8 a left femur of a theropod dinosaur at Sucas Island state park in the
9 San Juan Islands. Theropods are bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs that
10 include Tyrannosaurus and Velociraptor. While scientists are unsure
11 exactly what type of theropod the fossil belongs to, evidence
12 suggests it may be a species similar to Daspletosaurus. The dinosaur
13 has been nicknamed Sucasaurus rex.

14 Dinosaurs are not usually found in Washington because of its
15 proximity to an active tectonic plate boundary and the high degree of
16 human development. Some scientists believe the Sucasaurus rex lived
17 somewhere between Baja California, Mexico, and northern California,
18 and its fossil traveled to Washington along with a portion of the
19 western edge of North America that was displaced to British Columbia
20 in the Late Cretaceous period, but the fossil's exact location of
21 origin remains controversial.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
2 to read as follows:
3 The Sucasaurus rex is hereby designated as the official dinosaur
4 of the state of Washington.

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