
THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 119
Author: Caballero (D)
Introduced: 6/15/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Paleontology

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution celebrates the unique paleontological heritage of California, including its diverse fossil sites, institutions, and ancient ecosystems that these institutions have uncovered.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) According to the University of California Museum of Paleontology internet website, paleontology includes the study of fossils and what they tell us about the past, incorporating knowledge from biology, geology, ecology, anthropology, archaeology, and computer science.
- 2) The science of paleontology plays a critical role in predicting future climate change, understanding the extent to which humans have impacted biodiversity, contextualizing modern environmental challenges, and engaging students in science.
- 3) California dinosaurs include the fragments of a meat-eating theropod in the City of Rocklin and the state dinosaur, Augustynolophus morrisoni, an approximately three-ton “duck-billed” hadrosaur that ate plants and was found in the Counties of Fresno and San Benito.
- 4) Marine reptiles hunted across California’s Cretaceous seaways in areas like the County of Fresno’s Moreno Formation, which includes diverse, long-necked elasmosaurids resembling the Loch Ness Monster, while the County of Shasta preserved the large ichthyosaur known as Shastasaurus from the Late Triassic period.

- 5) California is also rich in fauna from many other times periods and localities, including the marine mammals of the Pliocene Central Coast and the rugose corals of the Devonian Death Valley region.
- 6) Sciences like paleontology face serious challenges, including the closure of university programs and an unprecedented billions in science funding cuts from the federal government.

This resolution recognizes the importance of paleontology as a source of valuable scientific knowledge related to our modern environmental challenges, and a source of awe.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

Prepared by: Destiny Bustos / SFA / (916) 651-4171
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