

SENATE BILL NO. 135—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION’S
SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
PROTECTION OF NATURAL TREASURES)

FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Creates the Office of State Paleontologist within the Department of Cultural Affairs. (BDR 33-210)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[omitted material]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to State Government; creating the Office of State Paleontologist within the Department of Cultural Affairs; setting forth the qualifications and duties of the State Paleontologist; authorizing the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide the State Paleontologist with office space and supplies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 This bill creates the Office of State Paleontologist within the Department of
- 2 Cultural Affairs. This bill provides for the employment and duties of the State
- 3 Paleontologist and authorizes certain outside employment by him. This bill also
- 4 authorizes the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide office space and
- 5 supplies to the State Paleontologist. The provisions of this bill are patterned after
- 6 existing law concerning the Office of State Climatologist. (NRS 396.595, 396.597)



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 378 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Office of State Paleontologist is hereby created within the Department.

2. The Director shall employ as the State Paleontologist a person who has received the approval of an officer of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

3. The State Paleontologist shall maintain his office in a county whose population is 400,000 or more. The Nevada System of Higher Education may provide the State Paleontologist with adequate space for an office and necessary supplies.

4. The State Paleontologist shall:

(a) Systematically inventory the paleontological resources within the State of Nevada;

(b) Compile a database of fossil resources within this State;

(c) Coordinate and promote paleontological research activities within this State;

(d) Disseminate and assist other persons in disseminating information gained from research conducted by the State Paleontologist; and

(e) Use and assist other persons in using the paleontological resources of this State to enhance tourism within the State.

5. The State Paleontologist may, in addition to his employment as State Paleontologist:

(a) Be employed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada as a member of the teaching staff of one of the branches or facilities within the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

(b) Accept employment as a consultant.

Sec. 2. NRS 378.008 is hereby amended to read as follows:

378.008 1. There is hereby created the Department of Cultural Affairs in which is vested the administration of the provisions of this title and chapter 233C of NRS.

2. The Department consists of a Director and the following:

(a) The Division of State Library and Archives;

(b) The Division of Museums and History;

(c) The Office of Historic Preservation;

(d) The Board of the Nevada Arts Council;

(e) The Nevada Arts Council;

(f) The Board of Museums and History;

(g) The State Council on Libraries and Literacy;



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- 1 (h) The State Historical Records Advisory Board; ~~and~~
- 2 (i) The Commission for Cultural Affairs ~~;~~ *and*
- 3 *(j) The Office of State Paleontologist.*
- 4 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

