

Date of Hearing: 3/29/17

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Adam Gray, Chair

AB 1540 (Bloom) – As Introduced February 17, 2017

SUBJECT: State dinosaur: *Augustynolophus morrisi*

SUMMARY: Designates the *Augustynolophus morrisi* as the official state dinosaur.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Designates the following as official state insignia:

- a) State Flower – "*Golden Poppy*" (Added by Chapter 69, Statutes of 1903)
- b) State Bird – "*California Valley Quail*" (Added by Chapter 777, Statutes of 1931)
- c) State Tree – "*California Redwood*" includes both the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the Sierra big tree (*Sequoia gigantea*) – (Added by Chapter 134, Statutes of 1943; Amended by Chapter 1140, Statutes of 1953)
- d) State Theatre – "*Pasadena Playhouse*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 45, Statutes of 1937)
- e) State Fish – "*California Golden Trout*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 90, Statutes of 1947)
- f) State Song – "*I Love You California*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 87, Statutes of 1951)
- g) State Animal – "*California Grizzly*" (Added by Chapter 1140, Statutes of 1953)
- h) State Motto – "*Eureka*" (Added by Chapter 1237, Statutes of 1963)
- i) State Rock – "*Serpentine*" (Added by Chapter 89, Statutes of 1965)
- j) State Mineral – "*Native Gold*" (Added by Chapter 89, Statutes of 1965)
- k) State Nickname – "*Golden State*" (Added by Chapter 66, Statutes of 1968)
- l) State Reptile – "*Desert Tortoise*" (Added by Chapter 683, Statutes of 1972)
- m) State Insect – "*California Dogface Butterfly*" (Added by Chapter 521, Statutes of 1972)
- n) State Fossil – "*Sabre-Tooth Cat*" (Added by Chapter 792, Statutes of 1973)
- o) State Historical Society – "*California Historical Society*" (Added by Chapter 52, Statutes of 1979)
- p) State Marine Mammal – "*California Gray Whale*" (Added by Chapter 328, Statutes of 1975)

- q) State Gemstone – "*Benitoite*" (Added by Chapter 1365, Statutes of 1985)
- r) State Folk Dance – "*Square Dance*" (Added by Chapter 1645, Statutes of 1988)
- s) State Dance – "*West Coast Swing*" (Added by Chapter 1645, Statutes of 1988)
- t) State Prehistoric Artifact – "*Chipped Stone Bear*" (Added by Chapter 73, Statutes of 1991)
- u) State Marine Fish – "*Garibaldi*" (Added by Chapter 948, Statutes of 1995)
- v) State Soil – "*San Joaquin Soil*" (Added by Chapter 331, Statutes of 1997)
- w) State Fife and Drum Band – "*California Consolidated Drum Band*" (Added by Chapter 58, Statutes of 1997)
- x) State Tartan – "*Based on the family tartan of the revered John Muir*" (blue and green with red, gold, and blue seams) (Added by Chapter 100, Statutes of 2001)
- y) State Gold Rush Ghost Town – "*Town of Bodie*" (Added by Chapter 365, Statutes of 2002)
- z) State Tall Ship – "*Californian*" (Added by Chapter 113, Statutes of 2003)
- aa) State Grass – "*Nassella Pulchra*" – commonly referred to as "purple needlegrass" (Added by Chapter 243, Statutes of 2004)
- bb) State Silver Rush Ghost Town – "*Calico*" (Added by Chapter 90, Statutes of 2005)
- cc) Official Marine Reptile – "*Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle*" (Added by Chapter 591, Statutes of 2012)
- dd) State Amphibian – "*California Red-Legged Frog*" (Added by Chapter 77, Statutes of 2014)
- ee) State Pet – "*Shelter Pet*" (Added by Resolution Chapter 184, Statutes of 2015)
- ff) State Lichen – "*Lace Lichen*" (Added by Chapter 113, Statutes of 2015)
- gg) State fabric – "Denim" (Added by Chapter 873, Statutes of 2016)

FISCAL EFFECT: Keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose of the bill: According to the Author's office, "The *Augustynolophus morissi* is a unique dinosaur that has only been found in California. Seven states, as well as the District of Columbia, have declared a state dinosaur to pay homage to the original creatures to walk the land. California now has the opportunity to recognize an important part of our history. A state dinosaur is essential to California's society because it nurtures an educational opportunity for the youngest Californian's to become interested in paleontology, and science as a whole."

Background: Augustynolophus belongs to a family of dinosaurs, Hadrosauridae or the "Duckbill Dinosaurs." The fossils have only been found in California, specifically unearthed in the Moreno Formation of Fresno County, which means that Augustynolophus comes from near the "geographical center" of our state. The Augustynolophus morrissi roamed California during the Maastrichtian Age, which makes it a contemporary of other well-known dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus and Triceratops. The species is named after two notable Californians, Dr. William J. Morris, and Mrs. Augustyn. Augustynolophus is the most complete dinosaur known from California, and includes skull material, making it easier for scientist to show an accurate picture of what the animal actually looked like in comparison to other dinosaurs.

Prior/Related Legislation: AB 501 (Levine), Chapter 873, Statutes of 2016. Designated "Denim" as the official State Fabric.

AB 1528 (Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife), Chapter 113, Statutes of 2015. Among other things, declared "Lace Lichen" (*Ramalina menziesii*) the official State Lichen.

ACR 56 (Linder), Resolution Chapter 184, Statutes of 2015. Declared a "shelter pet" as the official State Pet.

AB 2364 (V. Manuel Pérez), Chapter 77, Statutes of 2014. Designated the "California Red-Legged Frog" (*Rana draytonii*) as the official State Amphibian.

AB 1776 (Fong), Chapter 591, Statutes of 2012. Designated the Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle as the official marine reptile of the State of California and established October 15 as Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Day.

SB 906 (Ashburn), Chapter 90, Statutes of 2005. Designated "Calico" in San Bernardino County as the official State Silver Rush Ghost Town.

SB 1226 (Machado), Chapter 243, Statutes of 2004. Designated "purple needlegrass," or *Nassella Pulchra*, as the official State Grass.

AB 965 (Kehoe), Chapter 113, Statutes of 2003. Established the "Californian" as the official State Tall Ship.

AB 1757 (Leslie), Chapter 365, Statutes of 2002. Designated "Bodie" as the official State Gold Rush Ghost Town.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Kenton Stanhope / G.O. / (916) 319-2531