

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1088

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### As Passed House

January 16, 1998

**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.

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## 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:** Bronwyn Mauldin (786-7093).

**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.