

SENATE BILL NO. 232

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR YUNDT

Introduced: 2/4/26

Referred: Education, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to personal use collection of certain fossils."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 41.35.080 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 41.35.080. Research permits [PERMITS].** The commissioner may issue
5 a **research** permit for the investigation, excavation, gathering, or removal from the
6 natural state, of any historic, prehistoric, or archeological resources of the state. A
7 **research** permit may be issued only to persons or organizations qualified to make the
8 investigations, excavations, gatherings, or removals and only if the results of these
9 authorized activities will be made available to the general public through institutions
10 and museums interested in disseminating knowledge on the subjects involved. If the
11 historic, prehistoric, or archeological resource involved is one which is, or is located
12 on a site which is, sacred, holy, or of religious significance to a cultural group, the
13 consent of that cultural group must be obtained before a **research** permit may be
14 issued under this section.

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 41.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **Sec. 41.35.085. Personal use collection.** (a) A person may collect certain
 2 fossils for personal use on state land that is managed by the department other than a
 3 state park or a state game refuge. Personal use collection is limited to a daily total of
 4 25 pounds of certain fossils, 50 pounds of aggregate material that may contain certain
 5 fossils, or one invertebrate fossil greater than 50 pounds. Personal use collection may
 6 not be used for research purposes or for the collection of fossils that will be made
 7 available to the general public through an institution or museum. Certain fossils
 8 collected for personal use may not be sold or used for commercial purposes.

9 (b) A person engaging in personal use collection is responsible for ensuring
 10 personal use collection occurs in an open area and that the certain fossils collected
 11 meet the criteria for personal use collection under (a) of this section.

12 (c) When collecting fossils under this section, the person may use only hand
 13 tools that are not electric or battery-powered and shall cause only minimal surface
 14 disturbance.

15 * **Sec. 3.** AS 41.35.200(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) **Except as provided in AS 41.35.085, a** [A] person may not appropriate,
 17 excavate, remove, injure, or destroy, without a permit from the commissioner, any
 18 historic, prehistoric, or archeological resources of the state.

19 * **Sec. 4.** AS 41.35.230(2) is amended to read:

20 (2) "historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources" includes
 21 deposits, structures, ruins, sites, buildings, graves, artifacts, fossils, **fossilized tracks**
 22 **or fossilized burrows,** or other objects of antiquity which provide information
 23 pertaining to the historical or prehistorical culture of people in the state as well as to
 24 the natural history of the state.

25 * **Sec. 5.** AS 41.35.230 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

26 (3) "certain fossils" means plant fossils, invertebrate animal fossils, or
 27 fossilized tracks from or fossilized burrows made by an invertebrate animal.