

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 500
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

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HB 82 Sponsor Statement

A state symbol is a powerful tool used to emphasize a distinct trait or highlight a unique characteristic of the State. The State of Alaska has named many state symbols – such as a flower, the forget-me-not, a marine mammal, the bowhead whale, and a fossil, the woolly mammoth. It has not named a state dinosaur, which is a detriment to the state of Alaska. HB 82 aims to rectify this, with a suitable candidate: the Nanuqsaurus.

There are a multitude of states that have official state dinosaurs, many of which have an inherent connection to their state. California's state dinosaur, the Augustynolophus, was discovered in the Central Valley, and is named after a local museum benefactor. Arizona's Sonorasaurus was named after the Sonoran River, which runs through the state, and was found in a nearby area.

The Nanuqsaurus, whose name is derived from the Iñupiaq word "Nanuq" – meaning polar bear, and the Greek "Saurus" – lizard, was discovered in the Prince Creek Formation of the North Slope. It is classified as a tyrannosaur, and shares many of the fearsome characteristics possessed by the Tyrannosaurus rex, while also possessing a unique endurance to the harsh arctic environment.

Designating a state dinosaur also provides visibility for the unique paleontological research and discoveries in our great state.

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