

HOUSE BILL NO. 473

Introduced: 01/24/83

Referred to Committee on Fish & Game: 01/24/83

Hearing: 2/3/83

Died in Committee

House BILL NO. *473*

INTRODUCED BY *House* *James D. Sullivan*
Sen. Robert L. G. Brown

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING THE
DUCK-BILLED DINOSAUR MAIASAURA PEBBLESORUM AS THE OFFICIAL
STATE FOSSIL."

WHEREAS, Montana is the home of one of the world's most
important dinosaur discoveries, specifically the duck-billed
dinosaur Maiasaura peeblesorum, which is found nowhere else
in the world; and

WHEREAS, the duck-billed dinosaur, when newly hatched,
was less than 14 inches long and weighed about 1 1/2 pounds
but grew to over 30 feet in length and weighed about 3 tons;
and

WHEREAS, dinosaur sites in Montana contain fossilized
eggs, embryonic bone, babies, juveniles, and adults of
several different types of dinosaurs; provide valuable
evidence that duck-billed dinosaurs nested in extensive
colonies and had nests 6 feet in diameter that contained as
many as 20 eggs; and demonstrate for the first time parental
care of dinosaur young; and

WHEREAS, the Montana discoveries have tremendous
scientific value and will continue to receive widespread
publicity in national and international journals, as well as

in popular literature and television and radio programs; and

WHEREAS, naming a dinosaur as the state fossil will
increase awareness that Montana is one of the best places in
the world for the occurrence of important dinosaur
discoveries and will have real economic value in terms of
tourist promotion; and

WHEREAS, the name Maiasaura peeblesorum means "good
mother lizard" (Maiasaura) and honors the Peebles family
(peeblesorum), a Montana ranch family from the Choteau area
where the discoveries were made.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. State fossil. The duck-billed dinosaur
Maiasaura peeblesorum is the official Montana state fossil.

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