

ORIGINAL SENATE  
FILE NO. SF0088

ENROLLED ACT NO. 25, SENATE

SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2021 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to property and conveyances; specifying ownership of fossils, artifacts and non-fossilized animal remains discovered in split estates; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.** W.S. 34-1-154 is created to read:

**34-1-154. Ownership of fossils and artifacts.**

(a) The ownership of any fossil, artifact or non-fossilized animal remains discovered in the strata below the surface lands and waters of the state is vested in the owner of the surface estate, unless otherwise governed by W.S. 7-4-106.

(b) When used in any instrument, the term "minerals" does not include fossils, artifacts or non-fossilized animal remains.

(c) As used in this section:

(i) "Fossil" means any fossilized remains, traces or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, but does not include coal, oil, gas or other hydrocarbons;

(ii) "Artifact" means any material remains of past human life or human activities that are of archaeological interest.

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**Section 2.** This act shall apply to any existing or future transfer of ownership of the strata below the surface lands and waters of the state.

**Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk