

{2-301-

In order to protect and preserve historical, archaeological, and scientific information, matters and objects found on privately owned lands in the State, the General Assembly declares that archaeological excavations on privately owned lands should be discouraged except in accordance with the spirit and authority of this subtitle. A person who knows the location of any archaeological site in the State is encouraged to communicate the information to a reputable museum, an institution of higher education, a recognized scientific or historical institution or society, or the Survey.}

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There is a Division of Archaeology in the Survey. The administrative head of the Division is the State Archaeologist, who shall be a professional archaeologist whom the Director of the Survey appoints in accordance with the State merit system. The Director of the Survey shall appoint, in accordance with the State merit system, assistants and other employees provided in the State budget.}

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The Division of Archaeology shall:

(1) Sponsor, engage in, and direct fundamental research into the archaeology of the State and encourage and coordinate archaeological research and investigation undertaken by any scientific or historical institution or society, museum, or institution of higher education in the State;

(2) Cooperate in excavation of sites of historical or archaeological significance in custody or control of any other State unit;

(3) Protect and encourage the preservation of prehistoric or historic sites located on privately owned lands in the State;

(4) Retrieve and preserve objects of archaeological significance discovered during the course of any public construction in the State;

(5) Cooperate with and assist museums, institutions of higher education, and scientific or historical institutions and societies in the preservation and protection of objects and materials of archaeological nature in their custody;

(6) Make available to museums, institutions of higher education, and scientific or historical institutions and