

April 1, 2025

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 764 - Third Reader**

SHORT TITLE: **State Designations – State Mineral – Chromite (State Mineral Act)**

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports SB 764 to name Chromite the State Mineral. Chromite is a mineral found, and has a rich history, in Maryland, specifically abundant in Harford, Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City. The mines in Baltimore County and Baltimore City were the main, and at times, sole providers of Chromite in the post-colonial industrialization period. Chromite was mined in these locations until larger supplies that were more readily obtained were found. Mining for Chromite stopped in Maryland in the 1860s. Several mines are still visible in Maryland State Parks. Initial uses of Chromite include paint creating brighter colors, however, it was then quickly used in metallurgy creating stronger, more durable, and more environmentally resistant alloys. Without Chromite, the development of steel would not have been as advanced in our nation.

The Baltimore Chrome works was founded in Fells Point, Baltimore, MD, and was the World’s premier Chrome plant through 1885.

Maryland’s varying geology yields many minerals within the State; however, no other mineral has such a unique instrumental history in post-colonial Maryland industrialization.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HB 960 and SB 1002 were introduced in the 2017 legislative session to name Chromite as the State mineral, but the bills did not pass.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill designates Chromite as the named State Mineral.