
By: Senator Hollinger

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Gem - Golden Topaz**

3 FOR the purpose of designating golden topaz as the State gem.

4 BY adding to

5 Article - State Government

6 Section 13-315

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

9 WHEREAS, Eighteen states have designated a state gem; and

10 WHEREAS, The color yellow or Maryland gold is prominent in the State flag and
11 Great Seal and traces back to the Calvert Family Arms certified in 1617 and first
12 exhibited in 1622; and

13 WHEREAS, The black-eyed susan was chosen as the State flower because it
14 reflects the color of the Lords Baltimore in the State flag; and

15 WHEREAS, Gems and precious metals always have been of great interest to the
16 citizens of Maryland and today the Maryland Institute of Art and Towson State
17 University are recognized for their instruction in jewelry design and fabrication; and

18 WHEREAS, Golden topaz is formed from the orthorhombic crystal system in well
19 formed crystals and is yellow to yellowish orange in color; and

20 WHEREAS, The official designation of golden topaz as the State gem would be
21 consistent with the long history and heraldic nature of Maryland's colors and provide a
22 symbol that brings great enjoyment and excitement to its citizens; now, therefore,

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article - State Government**

26 13-315.

27 GOLDEN TOPAZ IS THE STATE GEM.

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1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 1997.