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**By: Senator Hollinger**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 1997

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

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,

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

3 **Article - State Government**

4 13-315.

5 GOLDEN TOPAZ IS THE STATE GEM.

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