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By: **Delegates Boschert, Bozman, Rudolph, Hecht, W. Baker, Mitchell,  
Conway, Linton, and Baldwin**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Mineral - Chromite**

3 FOR the purpose of designating chromite as the State mineral.

4 BY adding to

5 Article - State Government

6 Section 13-317

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (1999 Replacement Volume)

9 **Preamble**

10 WHEREAS, Chromite, formerly known as iron chromite, was first discovered in  
11 the United States by Isaac Tyson, Jr., in Bare Hills, Baltimore County in 1808; and

12 WHEREAS, This ore of the important metal chromium appeared as heavy black  
13 sand in the streams and gullies of Maryland's serpentine barrens, or as heavy dark  
14 rocks found upon the surface; and

15 WHEREAS, Later discoveries of the mineral were found in the serpentine  
16 barrens of Harford County, Cecil County, Soldier's Delight of Baltimore County, and  
17 southeastern Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, Until the 1850's, this region provided most of the world's chromite,  
19 as Isaac Tyson, Jr., exported the valuable mineral via Baltimore Clipper ships from  
20 Fells Point in Baltimore; and

21 WHEREAS, Isaac Tyson, Jr., established the Baltimore Chrome Works, the  
22 nation's first chromium chemicals plant in the United States, dominated the chrome  
23 industry, started the renowned Tyson Mining Company, and was inducted into the  
24 National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in 1996; and

25 WHEREAS, Chromite is found in Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard,  
26 and Montgomery counties as its historical relevance is reflected in the naming of local

1 interest points such as Chrome Hill in Harford County, Chromine Road in Baltimore  
2 County, and Chrome Mine Road in Montgomery County; and

3 WHEREAS, School students and other visitors to Soldier's Delight Natural  
4 Environment Area and the historic Choate Chrome Mine can pan chromite; and

5 WHEREAS, Chromite reflects the nature of Maryland's rich mining history and  
6 vast mineral resources; now, therefore,

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

9 **Article - State Government**

10 13-317.

11 CHROMITE IS THE STATE MINERAL.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2000.