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By: **Senator Ruben**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Emblems - Shrubs - Pinxterbloom Azalea**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron*  
4 *periclymenoides*) as the State shrub.

5 BY adding to

6 Article - State Government

7 Section 13-317

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, azaleas are beautiful, flowering semi-evergreen shrubs in the  
12 genus *Rhododendron* in the heath family, *Ericaceae*, that are native to Maryland; and

13 WHEREAS, the azalea is a prime example of a shrub (a low, woody plant with  
14 several permanent stems instead of a single trunk) that has come to signify for  
15 Maryland the coming of spring and all the hope that spring represents; and

16 WHEREAS, the pinxterbloom azalea, *Rhododendron periclymenoides*, can be  
17 found almost everywhere in Maryland and has both white and pink flowers; and

18 WHEREAS, fourth-graders, their teachers and families at Piney Branch  
19 Elementary School in Takoma Park, Maryland, suggested the need for naming a new  
20 State shrub, the azalea, which blooms so beautifully in Takoma Park, Silver Spring,  
21 and so many other fine cities across Maryland, and the creation of whose hybrids  
22 were the lifelong interest of Dr. Morrison, a distinguished Takoma Park resident; and

23 WHEREAS, the hardy, long-lived azalea continues growing throughout its life  
24 and is thus a great symbol of the educated person, who continues learning throughout  
25 life; now, therefore,

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

**Article - State Government**

2 13-317.

3 THE PINXTERBLOOM AZALEA (RHODODENDRON PERICLYMENOIDES) IS THE  
4 STATE SHRUB.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2001.