

HOUSE BILL 606

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HB 105/02 - CGM

2003 Regular Session
3r0598

By: **Delegates Hubbard and Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Gem - The Patuxent River Agate**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the Patuxent River agate as the State gem.

4 BY adding to

5 Article - State Government

6 Section 13-318

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, Thirty states have designated a state gem; and

11 WHEREAS, The red and yellow colors of the Patuxent River agate are also
12 found prominently in the State flag and the Great Seal; and

13 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River agate is found only in Maryland and is an
14 exceptionally beautiful gem, suitable for a wide variety of jewelry uses as well as
15 geologic specimens; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River agate is readily accessible and exists on public
21 and private lands in sufficient quantity to allow for environmentally sound, historical,
22 and geologic study, amateur prospecting, and cultivation for social, cultural,
23 educational, and economic benefits; and

24 WHEREAS, The designation of the Patuxent River agate as Maryland's official
25 State gem would provide Maryland businesses and artisans the opportunity to craft
26 jewelry and articles that are unique to Maryland, resulting in increased historical,
27 cultural, and economic benefits to the people of Maryland and furthering the

1 worldwide promotion of Maryland's rich history and culture through this newly
2 discovered gem; and

3 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River agate relates to the age of dinosaurs, and bears
4 direct witness to Maryland's rich geologic past and includes the world's finest gem
5 bone, as well as silicated sequoia, cycad, and fern wood; and

6 WHEREAS, The official designation of the Patuxent River agate as the State
7 gem would be consistent with the long history and heraldic nature of Maryland's
8 colors and provide a symbol that brings great enjoyment and excitement to its
9 citizens; now, therefore,

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

12 **Article - State Government**

13 13-318.

14 THE PATUXENT RIVER AGATE IS THE STATE GEM.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2003.