

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 606 (Delegates Hubbard and Benson)
Health and Government Operations

State Gem - The Patuxent River Agate

This bill designates the Patuxent River agate as the official State gem.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect government operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small businesses selling the Patuxent River agate could benefit to the extent that the bill results in an increase in the demand for the gem.

Analysis

Current Law: Title 13 of the State Government Article lists various emblems and designations adopted by the State. In addition to the State flag and seal, the State has designated an official State cat, crustacean, bird, boat, dinosaur, dog, drink, fish, flower, folk dance, fossil shell, insect, reptile, song, sport, summer theater, theater, and tree. No State gem has been designated in statute.

Background: Thirty states have designated a state gem.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical legislation was introduced as HB 105 of 2002, HB 290 of 2001, and HB 102 of 2000. All of those bills received unfavorable reports from the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. SB 663 of 1997 would have designated the golden topaz as the State gem. The bill failed in the House on its third reading.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2003
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