

HOUSE BILL 22

Unofficial Copy
P1
HB 606/03 - HGO

2004 Regular Session
4r0328

(PRE-FILED)

By: ~~Delegate Hubbard~~ **Delegates Hubbard, DeBoy, Benson, and V. Turner**

Requested: July 15, 2003
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: April 3, 2004

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~State Gem - The Patuxent River Stone~~
3 State Government - Designations

4 FOR the purpose of designating the Patuxent River stone as the State gem;
5 designating lacrosse as the State team sport; and generally relating to State
6 designations.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - State Government
9 Section 13-308
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article - State Government
14 Section 13-319
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

17 **Preamble**

18 ~~WHEREAS, More than thirty states have designated a state gem; and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, The red and yellow colors of the Patuxent River stone are also~~
20 ~~found prominently in the State flag and the Great Seal; and~~

1 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River stone is found only in Maryland and is an
2 exceptionally beautiful gem, suitable for a wide variety of jewelry uses as well as
3 geologic specimens; and

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

8 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River stone is readily accessible and exists on public
9 and private lands in sufficient quantity to allow for environmentally sound, historical,
10 and geologic study, amateur prospecting, and cultivation for social, cultural,
11 educational, and economic benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, The designation of the Patuxent River stone as Maryland's official
13 State gem would provide Maryland businesses and artisans the opportunity to craft
14 jewelry and articles that are unique to Maryland, resulting in increased historical,
15 cultural, and economic benefits to the people of Maryland and furthering the
16 worldwide promotion of Maryland's rich history and culture through this newly
17 discovered gem; and

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

21 WHEREAS, The official designation of the Patuxent River stone as the State
22 gem would be consistent with the long history and heraldic nature of Maryland's
23 colors and provide a symbol that brings great enjoyment and excitement to its
24 citizens; now, therefore,

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

27 **Article - State Government**

28 13-308.

29 (A) Jousting is the State sport.

30 (B) LACROSSE IS THE STATE TEAM SPORT.

31 13-319.

32 THE PATUXENT RIVER STONE IS THE STATE GEM.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 2004.

