HOUSE BILL 471

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By: Delegates Healey, Bartlett, Bates, Beidle, V. Clagett, Costa, Elliott, Elmore, Gaines, Haddaway, Hubbard, Jameson, Jennings, Kullen, Lawton, Montgomery, Ross, Sossi, Walkup, Weldon, and Wood Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2007 Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2

State Government – State Soil – Sassafras Soil

- 3 FOR the purpose of designating Sassafras sandy loam as the State soil.
- 4 BY adding to
- 5 Article State Government
- 6 Section 13–320
- 7 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 8 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)
- 9

Preamble

- 10 WHEREAS, Nearly half of the states of the United States have shown their 11 significant concern for soil by designating an official state soil; and
- 12 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has a significant concern for its soil 13 resources; and
- WHEREAS, Soils enhance the quality of surface and ground waters and serve as the foundation for our beautiful agriculture, our unique wildlife habitats, our beautiful landscapes, and the homes and communities of our citizens, and are a significant component of the Chesapeake Bay estuarine ecosystem; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 WHEREAS, Soils are essential to the quality of life and welfare of all 2 Marylanders; and

WHEREAS, Sassafras sandy loam (fine-loamy, siliceous, semiactive, mesic Typic Hapludults) covers more land area than any other soil in Maryland, is used for a wide variety of purposes, and is unique in the history of the State of Maryland and the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has yet to designate a State soil; now,8 therefore,

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

11

Article – State Government

12 **13–320.**

13 SASSAFRAS SANDY LOAM (FINE-LOAMY, SILICEOUS, SEMIACTIVE, MESIC 14 TYPIC HAPLUDULTS) IS THE STATE SOIL.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect16 October 1, 2007.