

SENATE BILL NO. 176

INTRODUCED BY J. POMNICHOWSKI

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING THE SCOBEEY SOIL SERIES AS MONTANA'S OFFICIAL STATE SOIL."

WHEREAS, Montana's official state symbols recognize the state's natural treasures; and

WHEREAS, the bitterroot, bluebunch wheatgrass, the western meadowlark, the sapphire, the blackspotted cutthroat trout, and the grizzly bear are all designated as state symbols; and

WHEREAS, Montana schoolchildren have initiated the designation of many state symbols, which has provided a valuable education about the symbol itself as well as about the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is Montana's largest industry, generating in the state's economy more than \$4.7 billion in services and products; and

WHEREAS, soil has been called the Earth's "living skin", sustaining not only Montana's agricultural industry but all of the state's plants, animals, and people; and

WHEREAS, legislatures in 21 states have designated a state soil to recognize the important role soil plays in their economies and environments; and

WHEREAS, Scobey soils are unique to Montana and occur on 1,261,000 acres mostly in the Golden Triangle and Hi-line areas of the state, producing high-quality wheat without irrigation, and are among the most productive of the 1,358 soils named and mapped in the state; and

WHEREAS, Scobey soils are scientifically and internationally recognized as fine, smectitic, frigid Aridic Argiustolls, representing the world's cool, semiarid grasslands; and

WHEREAS, Scobey soils from Montana are represented in the World Soil Museum and in a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution; and

WHEREAS, the Scobey soil series was named for the town of Scobey and was prominent in the first soil survey of the northern plains of Montana in 1929; and

WHEREAS, the 68th United Nations General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils; and

WHEREAS, 4th grade students from Longfellow Elementary School in Bozeman have researched the geological history, characteristics, and attributes of Scobey soils and their importance to Montana and believe

1 them to be worthy of designation as a state symbol of Montana; and

2 WHEREAS, the Longfellow Elementary School students have shared their research and have solicited
3 support for this designation from students who live in the Golden Triangle and Hi-line areas of the state.

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5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. State soil.** The soil series known as Scobey, of the taxonomic class fine,
8 smectitic, frigid Aridic Argiustolls, is the official Montana state soil.

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
11 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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