

SENATE BILL NO. 176

INTRODUCED BY J. POMNICHOWSKI, DICK BARRETT, J. BRENDEN, Z. BROWN, E. BUTTREY, C. CLARK, J. COHENOUR, R. COOK, J. ELLIS, T. FACEY, M. FUNK, K. HANSEN, D. HAYMAN, S. HESS, E. HILL, J. KARJALA, E. LIESER, S. MALEK, E. MCCLAFFERTY, M. MCNALLY, M. MOE, P. NOONAN, A. OLSEN, M. PHILLIPS, C. POPE, J. PRICE, R. SHAW, B. SMITH, T. STEENBERG, J. WELBORN, L. WHITFORD, K. WILLIAMS, N. WILSON, J. WINDY BOY, T. WOODS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING THE SCOBIEY 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

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

3 WHEREAS, 4th grade students from Longfellow Elementary School in Bozeman have researched the
4 geological history, characteristics, and attributes of Scobey soils and their importance to Montana and believe
5 them to be worthy of designation as a state symbol of Montana; and

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

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

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

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
15 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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