

AN ACT

1 Selecting, designating and adopting celestine as the official
2 State mineral of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) Celestine was first discovered in Bellwood, near
5 Frankstown, Blair County, Pennsylvania, in 1791 by Andreas
6 Gotthelf Schutz, a visiting naturalist from Freiberg,
7 Germany. In 1797, Martin Klaproth, the leading chemist in
8 Germany of his time, determined the chemical composition of
9 celestine as strontium sulfate. Abraham Gottlob Werner, a
10 founding father of the sciences of mineralogy and physical
11 geology, offered the name and physical description in 1798.
12 The first crystal structure of celestine was published in
13 1925 by R. W. James and W. A. Wood.

14 (2) Celestine derives its name from Latin *caelestis*,
15 meaning "heavenly," in allusion to the beautiful sky-blue
16 color of the first specimen from this Commonwealth. Celestine
17 grows as large, clear crystals that can be faceted into gems.

1 With the same brilliance as topaz, celestine crystals are
2 lovely gemstones.

3 (3) Celestine has been found in Bellwood, Blair County;
4 East Salem, Juniata County; Lime Bluff, Lycoming County;
5 Meckley's Quarry, Northumberland County; Allenport,
6 Huntingdon County; and Faylors Middle Creek Quarry, Mifflin
7 County.

8 (4) Celestine is a major ore for strontium, whose
9 compounds are responsible for the bright red flames in
10 fireworks and road flares. Strontium salts also were employed
11 for refining beet sugar and, during the long period when
12 cathode-ray tubes dominated television technology, strontium
13 was added to the glass to absorb X-rays for the protection of
14 the viewer.

15 (5) Designating celestine as our State mineral will
16 remind the residents of Pennsylvania that our Commonwealth
17 boasts a rich natural history that is marked by a mineralogy
18 of great beauty and diversity. This act will provide a
19 positive experience to countless school children whose
20 interest in Pennsylvania history and geology will be piqued.

21 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
22 hereby enacts as follows:

23 Section 1. Official State mineral.

24 Celestine, a mineral appearing as sky-blue or white
25 orthorhombic crystals or in fibrous masses, is hereby selected,
26 designated and adopted as the official State mineral of the
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

28 Section 2. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect immediately.