
By: **Delegate Franchot**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Repeal of Maryland State Song**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the Maryland State Song; and generally relating to the
4 repeal of the Maryland State Song.

5 BY repealing
6 Article - State Government
7 Section 13-307
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, James Ryder Randall wrote the poem "Maryland! My Maryland!" to
12 express his outrage at the news of Union troops being marched through Baltimore,
13 and to articulate his Confederate sympathies; and

14 WHEREAS, The underpinnings of the Confederacy can represent human
15 subjugation and racism; and

16 WHEREAS, State emblems convey the ideals and public values embraced by all
17 residents of Maryland; and

18 WHEREAS, An official State emblem that supports the Confederacy and all it
19 represented, is a moral affront to what is right and just to the residents of Maryland;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, While the Confederacy does represent the heritage of many
22 Maryland residents, this heritage should not be commemorated through the official
23 State song which represents all Marylanders; now, therefore, be it

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

1

Article - State Government

2 [13-307.

3 (a) The poem "Maryland! My Maryland!", which James Ryder Randall
4 composed in 1861, and the tune of "Lauriger Horatius" are the State song.

5 (b) The words of the State song are:

6 I
7 The despot's heel is on thy shore,
8 Maryland!
9 His torch is at thy temple door,
10 Maryland!
11 Avenge the patriotic gore
12 That flecked the streets of Baltimore,
13 And be the battle queen of yore,
14 Maryland! My Maryland!

15 II
16 Hark to an exiled son's appeal,
17 Maryland!
18 My mother State! to thee I kneel,
19 Maryland!
20 For life and death, for woe and weal,
21 Thy peerless chivalry reveal,
22 And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,
23 Maryland! My Maryland!

24 III
25 Thou wilt not cower in the dust,
26 Maryland!
27 Thy beaming sword shall never rust,
28 Maryland!
29 Remember Carroll's sacred trust,
30 Remember Howard's warlike thrust,--
31 And all thy slumberers with the just,
32 Maryland! My Maryland!

33 IV
34 Come! 'tis the red dawn of the day,
35 Maryland!
36 Come with thy panoplied array,
37 Maryland!
38 With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,
39 With Watson's blood at Monterey,
40 With fearless Lowe and dashing May,
41 Maryland! My Maryland!

V

1
2 Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,
3 Maryland!
4 Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,
5 Maryland!
6 Come to thine own heroic throng,
7 Stalking with Liberty along,
8 And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,
9 Maryland! My Maryland!

VI

10
11 Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,
12 Maryland!
13 Virginia should not call in vain,
14 Maryland!
15 She meets her sisters on the plain--
16 "Sic semper!" 'tis the proud refrain
17 That baffles minions back again,
18 Maryland! My Maryland!

VII

19
20 I see the blush upon thy cheek,
21 Maryland!
22 For thou wast ever bravely meek,
23 Maryland!
24 But lo! there surges forth a shriek
25 From hill to hill, from creek to creek--
26 Potomac calls to Chesapeake,
27 Maryland! My Maryland!

VIII

28
29 Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,
30 Maryland!
31 Thou wilt not crook to his control,
32 Maryland!
33 Better the fire upon thee roll,
34 Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,
35 Than crucifixion of the soul,
36 Maryland! My Maryland!

1 IX
2 I hear the distant thunder-hum,
3 Maryland!
4 The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,
5 Maryland!
6 She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb--
7 Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!
8 She breathes! she burns! she'll come! she'll come!
9 Maryland! My Maryland!]

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2001.