

SENATE BILL 49

P1
HB 1241/09 – HGO

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0445
CF HB 215

By: ~~Senator Young~~ **Senators Young, Kelley, and Kagan**

Requested: July 10, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland State Song – ~~Replacement~~ Revision**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~changing~~ revising the State song; and generally relating to the State
4 song.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – General Provisions
7 Section 7–318
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, James Ryder Randall, a native of Maryland, wrote the poem “Maryland!
12 My Maryland!” ~~while teaching in Louisiana~~ during the early days of the Civil War; ~~and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, Mr. Randall penned the poem at a time~~ when he was extremely
14 despondent over the death of a friend who was shot while protesting Union troops as they
15 marched through Baltimore; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Randall’s poem calls for Marylanders to take up arms and join the
17 South in its battle against the Union and disparages Northerners and President Abraham
18 Lincoln; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, The poem was adopted by Southern troops as a battle hymn and
 2 remains one of this country's most martial poems, the only state song calling for the
 3 overthrow of the government; and

4 WHEREAS, The poem was adopted as the State song in 1939 and has continued to
 5 stir controversy, resulting in numerous legislative efforts over the years calling for its
 6 repeal; and

7 WHEREAS, ~~After close examination of the poem and the allegiance and motivations~~
 8 ~~of its author, it is clear that the poem is inappropriate as a State song inasmuch as it~~ The
 9 historic State song represents a bygone era when our State was divided in the midst of the
 10 Civil War and expresses emotions that were characteristic of the that most divided period
 11 in this country's history; and

12 WHEREAS, John T. White, a native of Frederick County, also wrote a poem entitled
 13 "Maryland, My Maryland" in 1894, which celebrates the natural beauty of this State, an
 14 agreeable theme in which all Marylanders can take pride; and

15 WHEREAS, As many in this State make increased efforts to find common ground
 16 and work together harmoniously in a nonpartisan manner, this State needs a song that
 17 unites us moving forward and carries a theme that will endure over time; and

18 WHEREAS, ~~John T. White, a native of Frederick County, also wrote a poem entitled~~
 19 ~~"Maryland, My Maryland" in 1894; and~~

20 ~~WHEREAS, As a tribute to his native State, Mr. White's poem celebrates the natural~~
 21 ~~beauty of this State, an agreeable theme in which all Marylanders can take pride; now,~~
 22 ~~therefore,~~ The State Song Advisory Group, headed by the State Archivist, convened in
 23 October 2015 and recommended alternatives to the current State song, one of which is to
 24 revise the State song by merging select verses from Mr. Randall's and Mr. White's poems
 25 that meet established State song criteria; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. White's poem is more representative of a unified and inclusive
 27 Maryland; now, therefore,

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

30 Article – General Provisions

31 7–318.

32 (a) ~~The poem ["Maryland! My Maryland!"] "MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND",~~
 33 ~~written by [James Ryder Randall in 1861] JOHN T. WHITE IN 1894 and set to the tune of~~
 34 ~~"Lauriger Horatius", is the State song.~~

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1 ~~With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,~~
 2 ~~With Watson's blood at Monterey,~~
 3 ~~With fearless Lowe and dashing May,~~
 4 ~~Maryland! My Maryland!~~

V

5 ~~Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,~~
 6 ~~Maryland!~~
 7 ~~Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,~~
 8 ~~Maryland!~~
 9 ~~Come to thine own heroic throng,~~
 10 ~~Stalking with Liberty along,~~
 11 ~~And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,~~
 12 ~~Maryland! My Maryland!~~
 13

VI

14 ~~Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,~~
 15 ~~Maryland!~~
 16 ~~Virginia should not call in vain,~~
 17 ~~Maryland!~~
 18 ~~She meets her sisters on the plain—~~
 19 ~~"Sic semper!" 'tis the proud refrain~~
 20 ~~That baffles minions back again,~~
 21 ~~Maryland! My Maryland!~~
 22

VII

23 ~~I see the blush upon thy cheek,~~
 24 ~~Maryland!~~
 25 ~~For thou wast ever bravely meek,~~
 26 ~~Maryland!~~
 27 ~~But lo! there surges forth a shriek~~
 28 ~~From hill to hill, from creek to creek—~~
 29 ~~Potomac calls to Chesapeake,~~
 30 ~~Maryland! My Maryland!~~
 31

VIII

32 ~~Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,~~
 33 ~~Maryland!~~
 34 ~~Thou wilt not crook to his control,~~
 35 ~~Maryland!~~
 36 ~~Better the fire upon thee roll,~~
 37 ~~Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,~~
 38 ~~Than crucifixion of the soul,~~
 39 ~~Maryland! My Maryland!~~
 40

IX

41 ~~I hear the distant thunder hum,~~
 42

Maryland!

~~The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,~~

Maryland!

~~She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb—~~

~~Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!~~

~~She breathes! she burns! she'll come! she'll come!~~

~~Maryland! My Maryland!]~~

I

~~WE DEDICATE OUR SONG TO THEE,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~THE HOME OF LIGHT AND LIBERTY,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~WE LOVE THY STREAMS AND WOODED HILLS,~~

~~THY MOUNTAINS WITH THEIR GUSHING RILLS,~~

~~THY SCENES—OUR HEART WITH RAPTURE FILLS—~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!~~

II

~~IN TWAIN THE CHESAPEAKE DIVIDES~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~WHILE OCEANWARD ITS WATER GLIDES,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~YET WE IN THOUGHT AND PURPOSE ONE~~

~~PURSUE THE WORK SO WELL BEGUN,~~

~~AND MAY OUR STATE BE NE'ER OUTDONE,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!~~

III

~~PROUD SONS AND DAUGHTERS BOAST OF THEE,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~THINE IS A PRECIOUS HISTORY,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~BRAVE HEARTS HAVE HELD THY HONOR DEAR,~~

~~HAVE MET THE FOEMAN FAR AND NEAR,~~

~~BUT VICTORY HAS FURNISHED CHEER,~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!~~

IV II

~~“SAIL ON, SAIL ON, O SHIP OF STATE!”~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~MAY WE, THY CHILDREN, MAKE THEE GREAT.~~

~~MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.~~

~~MAY GRATITUDE OUR HEARTS POSSESS~~

1 **AND BOLDLY WE THY CLAIMS EXPRESS,**
 2 **AND BOW IN LOVING THANKFULNESS,**
 3 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 5 October 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.