

# SENATE BILL 49

P1  
HB 1241/09 – HGO

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0445  
CF 6lr0422

---

By: **Senator Young**

Requested: July 10, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland State Song – Replacement**

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

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

5 Article – General Provisions

6 Section 7–318

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

9 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, After close examination of the poem and the allegiance and motivations  
2 of its author, it is clear that the poem is inappropriate as a State song inasmuch as it  
3 represents emotions that were characteristic of the most divided period in this country's  
4 history; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, As a tribute to his native State, Mr. White's poem celebrates the natural  
11 beauty of this State, an agreeable theme in which all Marylanders can take pride; now,  
12 therefore,

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

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 7–318.

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

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

21 **I**  
22 The despot's heel is on thy shore,  
23 Maryland!  
24 His torch is at thy temple door,  
25 Maryland!  
26 Avenge the patriotic gore  
27 That flecked the streets of Baltimore,  
28 And be the battle queen of yore,  
29 Maryland! My Maryland!

30 **II**  
31 Hark to an exiled son's appeal,  
32 Maryland!  
33 My mother State! to thee I kneel,  
34 Maryland!  
35 For life and death, for woe and weal,  
36 Thy peerless chivalry reveal,

1 And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,  
2 Maryland! My Maryland!

## III

3 Thou wilt not cower in the dust,  
4 Maryland!  
5 Thy beaming sword shall never rust,  
6 Maryland!  
7 Remember Carroll's sacred trust,  
8 Remember Howard's warlike thrust,—  
9 And all thy slumberers with the just,  
10 Maryland! My Maryland!  
11

## IV

12 Come! 'tis the red dawn of the day,  
13 Maryland!  
14 Come with thy panoplied array,  
15 Maryland!  
16 With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,  
17 With Watson's blood at Monterey,  
18 With fearless Lowe and dashing May,  
19 Maryland! My Maryland!  
20

## V

21 Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,  
22 Maryland!  
23 Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,  
24 Maryland!  
25 Come to thine own heroic throng,  
26 Stalking with Liberty along,  
27 And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,  
28 Maryland! My Maryland!  
29

## VI

30 Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,  
31 Maryland!  
32 Virginia should not call in vain,  
33 Maryland!  
34 She meets her sisters on the plain—  
35 "Sic semper!" 'tis the proud refrain  
36 That baffles minions back again,  
37 Maryland! My Maryland!  
38

## VII

39 I see the blush upon thy cheek,  
40 Maryland!  
41 For thou wast ever bravely meek,  
42

## SENATE BILL 49

Maryland!

But lo! there surges forth a shriek  
From hill to hill, from creek to creek—  
Potomac calls to Chesapeake,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

VIII

Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,  
Maryland!

Thou wilt not crook to his control,  
Maryland!

Better the fire upon thee roll,  
Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,  
Than crucifixion of the soul,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

IX

I hear the distant thunder-hum,  
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**

**“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  
AND BOLDLY WE THY CLAIMS EXPRESS,  
AND BOW IN LOVING THANKFULNESS,  
MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!**

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