

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 508 (Delegate Reznik, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - State Song - Advisory Panel

This bill repeals “Maryland! My Maryland!” as the State Song and establishes the State Song Advisory Panel, which is staffed by the Maryland State Archives (MSA). Among other duties, the panel must review public submissions for a new State song. By December 1, 2018, the panel must report its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The provisions regarding the panel take effect June 1, 2018, and terminate June 30, 2019. The repeal of the State song takes effect June 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2018. General fund expenditures increase by \$23,700 in FY 2019 only for staff. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	23,700	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$23,700)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The panel must (1) review public submissions and suggestions for a new State song; (2) hold at least three public hearings to receive input and recommendations from the public regarding an appropriate State song; (3) recommend lyrics and a melody based on the public submissions, suggestions, input, and recommendations received for the General Assembly to consider adopting as the State song.

A member of the panel may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Current Law: The Maryland State Flag was adopted as the State flag in 1904 followed by the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918. Since then, the State has adopted many additional official symbols, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State’s Poet Laureate.

The official State song consists of the lyrics from “Maryland! My Maryland!” written by James Ryder Randall in 1861 set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius.”

Exhibit 1
State Symbols of Maryland

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Statutory Authority</u>
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Ch. 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Ch. 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Ch. 194 of 2001
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Ch. 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chs. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	<i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Chs. 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chs. 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Ch. 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Ch. 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Ch. 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	<i>Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae</i>	Ch. 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Ch. 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Ch. 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Ch. 253 of 1973
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Ch. 476 of 1994
Song	“Maryland! My Maryland!”	Ch. 451 of 1939
Sport	Jousting	Ch. 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Ch. 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Ch. 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives

Background: “Maryland! My Maryland!” was composed by James Ryder Randall in 1861 to protest Union troops marching through Baltimore. Randall, who was born in Baltimore, wrote the poem while working as an English and Classics professor at Poydras College in Louisiana, according to the Baltimore Literary Heritage Project. The poem, which calls for Maryland to “spurn the Northern Scum” was adopted by Southern troops as a battle hymn during the Civil War. It was adopted as the State song in 1939.

The State Song Advisory Group, headed by the State Archivist, convened in October 2015, and recommended six alternatives to the current State song. The final [report](#) of the advisory group can be found on the Maryland State Archives website.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$23,655 in fiscal 2019, which assumes a 30-day start-up delay from the bill’s June 1, 2018 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time contractual staff member to coordinate the panel meetings, develop and monitor timelines for public submissions and suggestions, arrange public hearings, and facilitate the State song selection process and panel in general. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, and operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- all current MSA staff are already working at full capacity with current responsibilities;
- termination of the contractual employee on December 1, 2018, after completion of the required report; and
- any expense reimbursements for panel members are minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Contractual Position	1
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$18,502
Operating Expenses	<u>5,153</u>
FY 2019 Administrative Expenditures	\$23,655

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 222 of 2016, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. HB 417 of 2016, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Affairs Committee but was subsequently withdrawn.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives; Baltimore Literary Heritage Project;
Department of Legislative Services

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