

HOUSE BILL 180

P1
HB 1178/09 – HGO

0lr0791

By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – State Song for Children – “The Land Mary–land”**

3 FOR the purpose of designating “The Land Mary–land” as the State song for children; and
4 generally relating to the State song for children.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–318.1

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2019 Replacement Volume)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The current State song, “Maryland, My Maryland” by James Ryder
12 Randall, is of historical interest; and

13 WHEREAS, The complex lyrics of “Maryland, My Maryland” reflect the turmoil of
14 the period during which the song was written; and

15 WHEREAS, It would be fitting to have a contemporary State song that is singable
16 for school children as well as the citizenry at large; and

17 WHEREAS, Tom Wisner’s song “The Land Mary–land” captures the spirit, dreams,
18 and hopes of the early settlers of the State; and

19 WHEREAS, “The Land Mary–land” is especially appropriate for a State song for
20 children because it focuses on the idealism of the settlers who founded the State, the
21 importance of their dreams of freedom, and their commitment to tolerance; and

22 WHEREAS, Designation of “The Land Mary–land” as the State song for children
23 would be a fitting tribute to the composer, Tom Wisner, a man who devoted his adult life to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 preserving and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its environs; now, therefore,

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

4 **Article – General Provisions**

5 **7–318.1.**

6 (A) THE SONG “THE LAND MARY–LAND” BY TOM WISNER IS THE STATE
7 SONG FOR CHILDREN.

8 (B) THE WORDS OF THE STATE SONG FOR CHILDREN ARE:

9 **CHORUS:**

10 OH THE LAND, MARYLAND WILL SURELY REVEAL
11 A PLACE TO BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH THAT WE FEEL.
12 ON THE WINGS OF THE MORNING IN THE CUP OF HIS HAND,
13 WE WILL CARRY OUR LONGING TO THE FAIR MARYLAND.

14 **I**

15 AMID ROPE TAR AND CANVAS AND TORN FROM OUR PAST,
16 IN A DUNGEON OF TIMBER WE PRAY WE MAY LAST
17 THROUGH SICKNESS AND TURMOIL IN SEARCH OF OUR HOME,
18 WE WILL TRUST OUR CONVICTION TO THE ROLLING WHITE FOAM.

19 **II**

20 SHE IS RIGGED OUT AND HANDSOME A MAID OF THE SEA,
21 BOUND ON A JOURNEY FOR HUMANITY.
22 SHE’LL SAIL THROUGH THE MORNING TO THE GREAT OCEAN WIDE,
23 BEARING THE LONGING THAT IS CARRIED INSIDE.

24 **III**

25 LONG BEFORE I WAS MADE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH,
26 YOU KNEW OF MY LONGING AND YOU FASHIONED MY BIRTH,
27 WITH A PASSION TO JOURNEY OUT OVER THE SEA
28 IN SEARCH OF THE VISION OF THE RIGHT TO LIVE FREE.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
30 1, 2020.