

**Department of Legislative Services**  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 180 (Delegate Crosby)  
Health and Government Operations

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

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This bill designates the song “The Land Mary-land” by Tom Wisner as the State song for children. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Since the adoption of the Maryland State Flag in 1904 and the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918, the State has adopted many official symbols, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The official State song is James Ryder Randall’s “Maryland! My Maryland!” set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius.”

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**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            |
| Paleontology Collection<br>and Research Center | Calvert Marine Museum              | Chs. 742/743 of 2018       |
| 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; Department of Legislative Services

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**Background:** Tom Wisner, a native of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, was a singer, songwriter, and educator who lived on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He received the World Folk Music Association’s John Denver Award in 2002. Among other popular songs, he composed “Chesapeake Born.” He died in 2010.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1178 of 2009 received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Smithsonian Institution; *Bay Journal*; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2020  
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