

# HOUSE BILL 178

P1  
HB 238/22 – HGO

3lr0610  
CF SB 497

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By: **Delegates Reznik, Allen, Barve, Fair, Feldmark, Foley, Forbes, Griffith, Healey, and Pruski**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Designations – State Spirit – Maryland Rye**

3 FOR the purpose of designating Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey as the State  
4 spirit; and generally relating to the State spirit.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–318

8 to be Section 7–319

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–318

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Maryland has had a long history and tradition of distilling various forms  
18 of whiskey since before the American Revolution; and

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**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, Maryland Rye Whiskey is a distinct and notable spirit unique from  
2 other distilled whiskey; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland Rye Whiskey demanded national respect as one of the best  
4 whiskeys in the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries; and

5 WHEREAS, Rye is a plentiful, locally grown cover crop affording an opportunity to  
6 highlight local agriculture and support local spirits production; and

7 WHEREAS, The Maryland distillery industry, once a robust and significant producer  
8 of spirits, is again growing and contributing to the economy and prominence of the State;  
9 now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
11 That Section(s) 7–318 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–319.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
14 as follows:

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 **7–318.**

17 **MARYLAND RYE OR MARYLAND RYE WHISKEY IS THE STATE SPIRIT.**

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.