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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HOUSE BILL 1286
TASK FORCE TO PROPOSE THE MARYLAND STATE SONG

Maryland is known by several names: "The Old Line State," "Little America," "Free State," and "America in Miniature". Though just nicknames, these appellations harken back to our rich and diverse history from as early as the 1600's before the colonies were established as separate and distinct. I bet you didn't know that Maryland is the home of the very first Presbyterian Church in the country, financed and supported by the Todd family of North Point. With the death of the original benefactor, the Scottish minister transplanted his congregation to the area in Baltimore County known as Owings Mills, just outside of Soldiers Delight, with the support of Mary Worthington (formerly Todd).

So many firsts and largest in Maryland. The Maryland colony acted as the first capital of the thirteen colonies at the birth of our country. The port of Baltimore was the largest exporter of chromium in the world in the early 1800's. This among other products and exports made the City of Baltimore a prime objective of the British during the War of 1812. The bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key, a Frederick, Maryland native, to pen the "Star Spangled Banner." Mary Pickersgill, a successful flag maker from Baltimore sewed the flag that survived the "Battle of Baltimore" and remains on display at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. But Pickersgill was more than a seamstress; she goes on to act as president of the first social agency created to provide aid to local disadvantaged women, the Impartial Female Humane Society. She embodies the very essence of a Marylander. Resilient, determined, forward-thinking, and public service minded.

More than just an historic bounty of benchmarks, one cannot overlook Maryland's contributions to science, technology, industry, education, and medicine. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was an engineering wonder of its time: 134 miles of hand-constructed channels formed by a combination of aqueducts and lift lock technologies of

its day connecting Montgomery and Allegany County. The U.S. Naval Academy, located here in Annapolis, was founded in 1845, with just seven professors and fifty students; its mission was simple. Provide a "healthy and secluded" environment to produce well-trained midshipmen for the challenges and battles ahead. Baltimore City is known for the founding of the ice cream industry through the efforts of C. Jacob Fussell. At the time of his death in 1912, his company was making 30 million gallons of ice cream a year. In 1876, Johns Hopkins University opens in Baltimore City, based on the German university model emphasizing research in science and later, with generous philanthropic support, medicine. Ten years later, the Enoch Pratt Free Library opens, the first free circulating library. It remains in operation today, a testament to Maryland and its place in history and the future.

Let's not forget our sports legends, Babe Ruth, the "Sultan of Swat", "Iron Man" Cal Ripkin, Brooks Robinson, the "Human Vacuum Cleaner," and Johnny Unitas, "the Golden Arm."

Maryland is a state burgeoning with talent: The Morgan State University Choir, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Institute College of Art, and the Peabody Institute to name only a few notable organizations.

I could go on and on. There is simply not enough PAPER or TIME. Maryland deserves a new state song that is both uplifting and remarkable, a song that reflects our cultural heritage, our colorful history, our indigenous spirit, and our uniquely diverse community of individuals.

PLEASE enter a FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB1286.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan X. McComes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'X'.