

SENATE BILL 97

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P1

2000 Regular Session  
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By: **Senator Munson**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Great Seal of Maryland - Recognition of Anne Mynne Calvert**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying the statutory description of the Great Seal of Maryland  
4 to recognize that portion of the seal derived from the arms of the Mynne family;  
5 and generally relating to the description of the State seal.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - State Government  
8 Section 13-102  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1999 Replacement Volume)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, On November 22, 1604, Anne Mynne married George Calvert, first  
13 Lord Baltimore, at St. Peter's Church, Cornhill in London and, between 1605 and her  
14 death during childbirth in 1622, Anne Mynne bore 11 children; and

15 WHEREAS, During the time of her marriage, Anne Mynne significantly  
16 contributed to the principles on which Maryland was founded; and

17 WHEREAS, So important was the memory of his wife Anne Mynne that, when  
18 George Calvert was elevated to the Irish Peerage as Baron Baltimore in 1625, he  
19 incorporated the crosslet or cross botany and the color red from Anne Mynne's coat of  
20 arms into his own; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1635 -- three years after Charles I granted the Maryland  
22 Charter to Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, and two years after the sailing of the  
23 Ark and Dove -- Cecil Calvert used his mother's armorial on the first map of  
24 Maryland; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1671 -- as the colony of Maryland flourished -- Cecil Calvert,  
26 publishing a revised map of Maryland, along with a condensed history of the colony  
27 extolling the virtues of religious freedom for those who settled there, included a

1 colored and enlarged coat of arms proudly bearing the quartering of the Mynne and  
2 Calvert shields; and

3 WHEREAS, As recognized by Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland's State  
4 Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents in a document titled, "The Forgotten  
5 Mothers of Maryland", in the years following Anne Mynne's death, her contributions  
6 were often forgotten or confused with those of her mother-in-law, Alicia Calvert, and  
7 scholars and the law alike have mistaken the Cross that appears on the Calvert Coat  
8 of Arms, the Great Seal of Maryland, the State flag, and by law on every flag pole on  
9 which the State flag is flown, as a Cross Botany of the Crossland family -- to which  
10 George Calvert's mother may or may not have belonged; and

11 WHEREAS, It is time that this historical error be rectified, and that the  
12 description of the State's Great Seal be corrected, in order that Anne Mynne's role in  
13 Maryland's history be given the recognition that is deserved; now, therefore,

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

16 **Article - State Government**

17 13-102.

18 (a) On the obverse of the Great Seal of Maryland is an equestrian figure of the  
19 Lord Proprietary, arrayed in complete armour and bearing a drawn sword in his  
20 hand. The caparisons of the horse are adorned with the family coat of arms. On the  
21 ground below is represented a sparse growth of grass on sandy soil, with a few small  
22 blue and yellow flowers. On the circle, surrounding the obverse of the seal, is the  
23 Latin inscription "Caecilius Absolutus Dominus Terrae Mariae et Avaloniae Baro de  
24 Baltemore", meaning "Cecil Absolute Lord of Maryland and Avalon Baron of  
25 Baltimore" (Avalon refers to Lord Baltimore's first settlement in the new world, in  
26 Newfoundland).

27 (b) On the reverse of the Great Seal of Maryland is Lord Baltimore's  
28 hereditary coat of arms. The 1st and 4th quarters represent the arms of the Calvert  
29 family described in heraldic language as a paly of 6 pieces, or (gold) and sable (black)  
30 a bend counterchanged. The 1st and 4th quarters are the left-hand top quarter and  
31 the right-hand bottom quarter. The 2nd and 3rd quarters show the arms of the  
32 [Crossland] MYNNE family, which Cecil inherited from his [grandmother, Alicia]  
33 MOTHER, ANNE, wife of [Leonard Calvert, the father of] George CALVERT, 1st Lord  
34 Baltimore. This coat of arms is in quarters also, argent (silver) and gules (red) a cross  
35 bottony (boutonne, with a button or a three-leaf clover at the end of each radius of the  
36 cross) counterchanged. Above the shield is placed an Earl's coronet (indicating that  
37 though only a baron in England, Calvert was an earl or count palatine in Maryland).  
38 Above that, a helmet set full faced and over that the Calvert crest, (2 pennons, the  
39 dexter or the right one or (gold), the other sable (black) staffs gules (red) issuing from  
40 the ducal coronet). The supporters of the shield are a plowman and a fisherman with  
41 their hands on the shield, designated respectively by a spade held in the right hand of  
42 the plowman and a fish held in the left hand of the fisherman (the fish is heraldic and

1 cannot, therefore, be identified as to any species). The plowman wears a  
2 high-crowned, broad-brimmed beaver hat; the fisherman wears a knitted cap  
3 (somewhat resembling a stocking cap). The motto in Italian on a ribbon at the feet of  
4 the plowman and fisherman is the motto of the Calvert family "Fatti maschii parole  
5 femine" loosely translated as "Manly deeds, womanly words". Behind and  
6 surrounding both shield and supporters is an ermine-lined mantle and on the circle  
7 around this part of the seal are the words "Scuto bonae voluntatis tuae coronasti nos"  
8 (5th Psalm, 12th verse: "With favor wilt thou compass us as with a shield") and the  
9 date 1632. The date refers to the year the charter was granted.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2000.