

SENATE BILL 980

F1, P1

9lr3317
CF HB 1178

By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

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.

4 BY adding to

5 Article – State Government

6 Section 13–307.1

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

9 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Designation of “The Land Mary-land” as the State song for
22 children would be a fitting tribute to the composer, Tom Wisner, a man who has

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 devoted his adult life to preserving and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its
2 environs; now, therefore,

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

5 **Article – State Government**

6 **13-307.1.**

7 (A) **THE SONG “THE LAND MARY-LAND” BY TOM WISNER IS THE STATE**
8 **SONG FOR CHILDREN.**

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

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

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

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

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

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 June 1, 2009.