

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1009 (Delegate Conaway)
Health and Government Operations

State Government - State Walking Stick of Statesmen and Gentlemen - The Shillelagh

This bill designates the shillelagh as the State walking stick of statesmen and gentlemen.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland State Flag was adopted as the State flag in 1904 followed by the adoption of the Black-Eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918. Since then, the State has adopted many additional official symbols as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State's Poet Laureate.

Background: A shillelagh is a wooden club typically made from a stout knotty stick with a large knob on the end that is associated with Ireland and Irish folklore. Shillelaghs are traditionally made from blackthorn wood or oak. The wood is smeared with butter and placed up a chimney to cure, giving them a black shiny appearance. Shillelaghs are commonly the length of a walking stick.

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	Ch. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	Astrodon johnstoni	Ch. 404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Ch. 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
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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mam/hlb

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