

Department of Legislative Services
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1367 (Delegates Cane and Conway)
Health and Government Operations

State Emblems - Literacy Symbol - Book "E" Lookee

This bill designates Book "E" Lookee as the State literacy symbol.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland State Flag was adopted 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: Book "E" Lookee was created by Dr. Judylynn Mitchell, a Wicomico County educator, as part of the local cable television show "Land of Books." The program was aimed at helping young children develop a lifelong love of reading. Dr. Mitchell hosted the program along with her "cushion-shaped buddy" Book "E" Lookee. The programming schedule for Public Access Channel 14, serving Wicomico County, indicates that Book "E" Lookee reads children's books on a "Story Time" program.

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. 165 of 2008 |
| Dinosaur | <i>Astrodon johnstoni</i> | Ch. 404 of 1998 |
| Dog | Chesapeake Bay Retriever | Ch. 156 of 1964 |
| Drink | Milk | Ch. 220 of 1998 |
| Exercise | Walking | Ch. 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: HB 494 of 2009 received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee. Its cross file, SB 805, received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives, Department of Legislative Services

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