

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 39

(Senators Simonaire and Kagan)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**General Provisions - State Designations - Great Seal**

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This bill changes the statutory translation of the Calvert family motto depicted on the Great Seal of Maryland from “Manly deeds, womanly words” to “Strong deeds, gentle words.”

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Changing the statutory translation of the Calvert family motto does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** 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.

As the historical agency for Maryland, the State Archives is the central depository for government records of permanent value, as well as certain designated private records. These records are available to the public for research about topics, including State symbols, on an ongoing basis. The State Archivist may, on request or at the State Archivist’s discretion, review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding State designations under Title 7 of the General Provisions Article.

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**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                  | Chs. 164/165 of 2008       |
| Dinosaur         | <i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>          | Chs. 403/404 of 1998       |
| Dog              | Chesapeake Bay Retriever           | Ch. 156 of 1964            |
| Drink            | Milk                               | Ch. 220 of 1998            |
| Exercise         | Walking                            | Chs. 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

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On June 20, 1632, Charles I of England granted the original charter for Maryland, a proprietary colony of about 12 million acres, to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, who served as the first Proprietor and Proprietary Governor of the Province of Maryland. Over the years, the State has adopted many Calvert family symbols to represent the State. For example, the State flag is based on the Calvert family heraldic banner.

The Calvert family motto, “*Fatti maschii parole femine,*” is in Italian. *The Washington Post* reports that, according to a spokesman at the Italian Embassy in Washington, the phrase is derived from a comment made by Pope Clement VII in the sixteenth century when he was returning to Italy after a trip to France. According to the spokesman, the phrase is generally understood to mean “men do things, and women talk about things.”

Another wordier translation is “When you need things done, ask a man, because women only talk and don’t arrive to a conclusion.” It is unclear why the phrase became the Calvert family motto.

Chapter 396 of 1959 codified the Great Seal of Maryland, which includes the Calvert family motto of “*Fatti maschii, parole femine.*” At this time, statute stated that the phrase “*Fatti maschii, parole femine,*” was “translated usually as ‘Manly deeds, womanly words.’ ” In 1969, this language was amended to read “*Fatti Maschi Parole Femine*” (one less ‘i’ in the word *maschii*) and stated that the phrase was “loosely translated as ‘Deeds are manly, words are womanly’ ” (Chapter 79). In 1975, this language was once again amended to revert back to “*Fatti maschii parole femine*” (with two ‘i’s’) and to be “loosely translated as ‘manly deeds, womanly words’ ” (Chapter 370).

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Archives, *The Washington Post*, Historic St. Mary’s City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2016  
min/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 29, 2016

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