

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1657 (Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

State Designations - The Preakness Stakes as the State Cultural Event

This bill designates the Preakness Stakes as the State cultural event.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating a State cultural event does not affect State 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.

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.

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

Background: The Preakness Stakes is an American flat thoroughbred horse race held on the third Saturday in May each year at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland. It is the second race of the Triple Crown of American horse racing, which also includes the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. First run in 1873, the Preakness Stakes was named by a former Maryland Governor after a colt that won the Dinner Party Stakes at Pimlico in its opening year. The 142nd Preakness Stakes will be held May 20, 2017.

Attendance at the Preakness Stakes is second only to the Kentucky Derby. Being one of the oldest horse races in America, it has a long history and many traditions. Just before the race starts, the audience joins in the singing of “Maryland, My Maryland,” the official State

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song. After the winner has been officially announced, a painter climbs a ladder to the top of a replica of the Old Clubhouse and paints the colors of the winning team's silks on the cupola's jockey and horse weather vane. Finally, the winning horse is draped in a blanket of black-eyed Susans. Black-eyed Susan, the official State flower, does not normally bloom until June or July, so yellow daisies with the centers hand-painted black are used instead.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1166 (Senators Oaks and Klausmeier) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives; *Baltimore Sun*; GamblingSites.org; Britannica.com; Department of Legislative Services

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