

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 282 (Delegate Beitzel)  
Health and Government Operations

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State Designations - Maryland State Amphibian - Long-Tailed Salamander

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This bill designates the long-tailed salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*) as the State amphibian.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Designating a State amphibian does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

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

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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
Paleontology Collection and Research Center	Calvert Marine Museum	Chs. 742/743 of 2018
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; Department of Legislative Services

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**Background:** According to the Department of Natural Resources, long-tailed salamanders, which typically make their habitat under rocks and logs near shaded streams, are common to Western Maryland and the Piedmont region. The yellow-brown, black-spotted salamander, appropriately named for its long tail, which can account for over half of the salamander’s overall length, belongs to the family *Plethodontidae*, or “lungless salamander,” and breathes through its skin.

According to the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, long-tailed salamanders are found as far north as southern New York, as far south as northern Alabama, and as far west as Missouri. Although the long-tailed salamander is relatively abundant, New Jersey and Kansas recognize the long-tailed salamander as a threatened species due to habitat loss and pollution, and North Carolina recognizes the long-tailed salamander as a species of concern.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 142 (Senator Edwards) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Archives; Department of Natural Resources; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute; Department of Legislative Services

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