

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 867 (Delegate Kerr, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Designations - State Tartan

This bill designates a State tartan of a specified design reflecting the colors of the State flag (yellow, black, red, and white).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating a State tartan 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
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

Background: A tartan is an important symbol of Scotland and Scottish heritage. Tartan is made with alternating bands of colored (pre-dyed) threads woven as both warp and weft at right angles to each other woven into a simple twill. This forms visible diagonal lines where different colors cross, which give the appearance of new colors blended from the original ones. The resulting blocks of color repeat vertically and horizontally in a distinctive pattern of squares and lines known as a sett.

A system of counting threads enables the recording of a tartan pattern in a simple fashion. The pattern listed in the bill is 16 yellow, 16 black, 16 yellow, 16 black, 40 red, 8 white, 8 red, and 40 white.

It is often said that tartans represent clans or families but that legend is more a 19th century invention than historical truth. Nevertheless, the legend stuck, and the designation of tartans to commemorate a clan, place, special event, or person continues to be popular. In 2008, the Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament, to protect, promote, and preserve tartan. [Several states](#), including West Virginia, Massachusetts, and North Carolina have designated official state tartans.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 303 of 2016 received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee. SB 114 of 2015 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Scottish History Online, Statesymbolsusa.org; Maryland State Archives; Department of Legislative Services

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an/jc

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