

HOUSE BILL 437

P1
HB 181/20 – HGO

1lr1921

By: **Delegate Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – State Song – Advisory Panel**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the State song; establishing the State Song Advisory Panel;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Advisory Panel; prohibiting
5 a member of the Advisory Panel from receiving certain compensation, but
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Advisory Panel to
7 review certain submissions and suggestions; requiring the Advisory Panel to conduct
8 certain public hearings; requiring the Advisory Panel to report certain
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
10 date; providing for a delayed effective date for a certain provision of this Act;
11 providing for the termination of a certain provision of this Act; and generally relating
12 to the State song.

13 BY repealing

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–318

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – General Provisions**

21 [7–318.

22 (a) The poem “Maryland! My Maryland!”, written by James Ryder Randall in
23 1861 and set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius”, is the State song.

24 (b) The words of the State song are:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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I

The despot's heel is on thy shore,

Maryland!

His torch is at thy temple door,

Maryland!

Avenge the patriotic gore

That flecked the streets of Baltimore,

And be the battle queen of yore,

Maryland! My Maryland!

II

Hark to an exiled son's appeal,

Maryland!

My mother State! to thee I kneel,

Maryland!

For life and death, for woe and weal,

Thy peerless chivalry reveal,

And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,

Maryland! My Maryland!

III

Thou wilt not cower in the dust,

Maryland!

Thy beaming sword shall never rust,

Maryland!

Remember Carroll's sacred trust,

Remember Howard's warlike thrust,—

And all thy slumberers with the just,

Maryland! My Maryland!

IV

Come! 'tis the red dawn of the day,

Maryland!

Come with thy panoplied array,

Maryland!

With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,

With Watson's blood at Monterey,

With fearless Lowe and dashing May,

Maryland! My Maryland!

V

Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,

Maryland!

Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,

Maryland!

Come to thine own heroic throng,

1 Stalking with Liberty along,
2 And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,
3 Maryland! My Maryland!

VI

4 Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,
5 Maryland!
6 Virginia should not call in vain,
7 Maryland!
8 She meets her sisters on the plain—
9 “Sic semper!” ’tis the proud refrain
10 That baffles minions back again,
11 Maryland! My Maryland!
12

VII

13 I see the blush upon thy cheek,
14 Maryland!
15 For thou wast ever bravely meek,
16 Maryland!
17 But lo! there surges forth a shriek
18 From hill to hill, from creek to creek—
19 Potomac calls to Chesapeake,
20 Maryland! My Maryland!
21

VIII

22 Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,
23 Maryland!
24 Thou wilt not crook to his control,
25 Maryland!
26 Better the fire upon thee roll,
27 Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,
28 Than crucifixion of the soul,
29 Maryland! My Maryland!
30

IX

31 I hear the distant thunder—hum,
32 Maryland!
33 The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,
34 Maryland!
35 She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb—
36 Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!
37 She breathes! she burns! she'll come! she'll come!
38 Maryland! My Maryland!]
39

40 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

41 (a) There is a State Song Advisory Panel.

- 1 (b) The Advisory Panel consists of the following members:
- 2 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
3 the Senate;
- 4 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House;
- 6 (3) the State Archivist, or the State Archivist's designee;
- 7 (4) the President of the Maryland Historical Society, or the President's
8 designee; and
- 9 (5) five residents of the State, appointed by the Governor.
- 10 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Advisory Panel.
- 11 (d) The State Archives shall provide staff for the Advisory Panel.
- 12 (e) A member of the Advisory Panel:
- 13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Advisory Panel; but
- 14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 16 (f) The Advisory Panel shall:
- 17 (1) review public submissions and suggestions for a new State song;
- 18 (2) hold at least three public hearings to receive input and
19 recommendations from the public regarding an appropriate State song; and
- 20 (3) recommend lyrics and a melody based on the public submissions,
21 suggestions, input, and recommendations received under this Act for the General Assembly
22 to consider adopting as the State song.
- 23 (g) On or before December 1, 2021, the Advisory Panel shall report its
24 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
25 Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take
27 effect June 1, 2022.

28 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section
29 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2021. Section 2 of this Act shall remain

1 effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2022, Section 2 of
2 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
3 of no further force and effect.