

# SENATE BILL 87

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(PRE-FILED)

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CF HB 389

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By: **Senator West**

Requested: September 22, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – State Song – Repeal and Competition**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the State song; requiring the Maryland State Arts Council to  
4 develop a plan for and conduct a certain State song competition, including the  
5 acceptance of certain entries to the competition, and to carry out certain tasks  
6 relating to the competition; requiring the Council to report certain finalists of the  
7 competition to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or  
8 before a certain date; authorizing the Council to make certain recommendations;  
9 providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating  
10 to the State song.

11 BY repealing

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–318

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

16 BY renumbering

17 Article – General Provisions

18 Section 7–319

19 to be Section 7–318

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – General Provisions**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [7–318.

2 (a) The poem “Maryland! My Maryland!”, written by James Ryder Randall in  
3 1861 and set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius”, is the State song.

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

5 I

6 The despot’s heel is on thy shore,

7 Maryland!

8 His torch is at thy temple door,

9 Maryland!

10 Avenge the patriotic gore

11 That flecked the streets of Baltimore,

12 And be the battle queen of yore,

13 Maryland! My Maryland!

14 II

15 Hark to an exiled son’s appeal,

16 Maryland!

17 My mother State! to thee I kneel,

18 Maryland!

19 For life and death, for woe and weal,

20 Thy peerless chivalry reveal,

21 And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,

22 Maryland! My Maryland!

23 III

24 Thou wilt not cower in the dust,

25 Maryland!

26 Thy beaming sword shall never rust,

27 Maryland!

28 Remember Carroll’s sacred trust,

29 Remember Howard’s warlike thrust,—

30 And all thy slumberers with the just,

31 Maryland! My Maryland!

32 IV

33 Come! ’tis the red dawn of the day,

34 Maryland!

35 Come with thy panoplied array,

36 Maryland!

37 With Ringgold’s spirit for the fray,

38 With Watson’s blood at Monterey,

39 With fearless Lowe and dashing May,

40 Maryland! My Maryland!

## V

1  
2 Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,  
3 Maryland!  
4 Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,  
5 Maryland!  
6 Come to thine own heroic throng,  
7 Stalking with Liberty along,  
8 And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,  
9 Maryland! My Maryland!

## VI

10  
11 Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,  
12 Maryland!  
13 Virginia should not call in vain,  
14 Maryland!  
15 She meets her sisters on the plain—  
16 "Sic semper!" 'tis the proud refrain  
17 That baffles minions back again,  
18 Maryland! My Maryland!

## VII

19  
20 I see the blush upon thy cheek,  
21 Maryland!  
22 For thou wast ever bravely meek,  
23 Maryland!  
24 But lo! there surges forth a shriek  
25 From hill to hill, from creek to creek—  
26 Potomac calls to Chesapeake,  
27 Maryland! My Maryland!

## VIII

28  
29 Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,  
30 Maryland!  
31 Thou wilt not crook to his control,  
32 Maryland!  
33 Better the fire upon thee roll,  
34 Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,  
35 Than crucifixion of the soul,  
36 Maryland! My Maryland!

## IX

37  
38 I hear the distant thunder—hum,  
39 Maryland!  
40 The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,  
41 Maryland!  
42 She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb—  
43 Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!

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1 She breathes! she burns! she'll come! she'll come!  
2 Maryland! My Maryland!]

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 7–319 of  
4 Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be  
5 Section(s) 7–318.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

7 (a) The Maryland State Arts Council shall:

8 (1) (i) develop a plan for and conduct a State song competition in which  
9 contestants, either individually or as a group, may submit to the Council a song about the  
10 State of Maryland; and

11 (ii) include and accept as entries to the State song competition the  
12 proposed replacement songs that originated out of the October 2015 report of the State  
13 Song Advisory Group and are designated in the following bills:

14 1. S.B. 49/H.B. 215 of 2016; and

15 2. H.B. 608 of 2018;

16 (2) develop rules and guidelines for the State song competition, including  
17 the acceptance of entries that alter only the song lyrics or both the song lyrics and music;

18 (3) develop criteria for the selection of a competition winner or finalists,  
19 including the recommendations of the State Song Advisory Group that:

20 (i) the song shall be an original song that is written and composed  
21 by the contestant;

22 (ii) the song shall be dignified, singable, and evoke visual images of  
23 Maryland's history, diversity, and natural beauty; and

24 (iii) the contestant shall agree to surrender to the State any  
25 copyrights to the song's composition, arrangement, or lyrics;

26 (4) select no more than three finalists from the entries to the State song  
27 competition that complied with competition rules and guidelines, giving preference to  
28 contestants who are residents of the State; and

29 (5) promote the State song competition on the Maryland State Arts Council  
30 website and through media outlets.

31 (b) On or before December 1, 2021, the Maryland State Arts Council:

1           (1) shall report to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the  
2 State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
3 Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the finalists  
4 of the State song competition selected under subsection (a)(4) of this section; and

5           (2) may recommend that:

6                   (i) one of the finalists be designated as the State song; or

7                   (ii) no State song be designated.

8           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2021. Section 3 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of  
10 June 30, 2022, Section 3 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
11 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.