

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 341 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Maryland State
Archives)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions - State Song - Repeal

This departmental bill repeals the State song, “Maryland! My Maryland!”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Repealing the State song does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland State Archives (MSA) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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 official State song is James Ryder Randall’s “Maryland! My Maryland!” set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius.”

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: James Ryder Randall composed “Maryland! My Maryland!” in 1861 to protest the marching of Union troops through Baltimore. According to the Baltimore Literary Heritage Project, Randall, a Baltimore native, wrote the poem during his tenure as an English and Classics professor at Poydras College in Louisiana. Southern troops adopted the poem, which calls for Maryland to “spurn the Northern Scum,” as a battle hymn during the Civil War. Maryland adopted the poem as the State song in 1939.

In October 2015, the State Archivist convened the State Song Advisory Group to study and recommend alternatives to the current State song. The group recommended six alternatives in its final [report](#), which is available on MSA's website.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Several bills were introduced in the 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 sessions to repeal the State song and establish a State Song Advisory Panel to review public submissions and suggestions for a new State song.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2021
rh/jc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: General Provisions - State Song - Repeal

BILL NUMBER: SB 341

PREPARED BY: Timothy D. Baker

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

OR

WILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS