

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 87 (Senator West)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions – State Song – Repeal and Competition

This bill repeals the State song of Maryland and requires the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) to develop a plan for and conduct a State song competition, as specified. By December 1, 2021, MSAC must report its recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly on the finalists of the competition and may recommend that one of the finalists be designated as the State song or no State song be designated. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021; provisions pertaining to the competition terminate June 30, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSAC can handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: MSAC must:

- conduct a State song competition in which contestants may submit a song about the State of Maryland and include and accept as entries proposed replacement songs from the October 2015 report of the State Song Advisory Group that are designated in specified legislation;

- develop rules and guidelines for the competition and criteria for the selection of a winner or finalists that includes specified elements;
- select no more than three finalists, giving preference to State residents; and
- promote the competition on the MSAC website and through media outlets.

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

Additional Comments: The State Song Advisory Group, headed by the State Archivist, convened in October 2015 and recommended six alternatives to the current State song. The final [report](#) of the advisory group can be found on the Maryland State Archives 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: HB 389 (Delegate Hill) - Health and Government Operations.

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

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