

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 578 (Delegate Jackson, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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**State Designations - Symbol of Remembrance for September 11 - Freedom Flag**

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This bill designates the Freedom Flag – designed and created by Richard Nicholas Melito of Richmond, Virginia, to memorialize the victims of the events of September 11, 2001 – as the State symbol of remembrance for the attacks of September 11.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Designating a State symbol of remembrance for the attacks of September 11 does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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 Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State’s Poet Laureate.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**State Symbols of Maryland**

| <b><u>Type</u></b>                             | <b><u>Name</u></b>              | <b><u>Statutory Authority</u></b> |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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</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<br>and Research Center | Calvert Marine Museum           | Chs. 742/743 of 2018              |
| Reptile  | Diamondback Terrapin            | Ch. 476 of 1994                   |
| 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

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2023  
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