

Chapter 308

(Senate Bill 497)

AN ACT concerning

State Designations – State Spirit – Maryland Rye

FOR the purpose of designating Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey as the State spirit; and generally relating to the State spirit.

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–318

to be Section 7–319

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions

Section 7–318

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland has had a long history and tradition of distilling various forms of whiskey since before the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Rye Whiskey is a distinct and notable spirit unique from other distilled whiskey; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Rye Whiskey demanded national respect as one of the best whiskeys in the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries; and

WHEREAS, Rye is a plentiful, locally grown cover crop affording an opportunity to highlight local agriculture and support local spirits production; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland distillery industry, once a robust and significant producer of spirits, is again growing and contributing to the economy and prominence of the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–318 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–319.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

7-318.

MARYLAND RYE OR MARYLAND RYE WHISKEY IS THE STATE SPIRIT.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 3, 2023.