

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 159 (Senator Ellis)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

State Designations - State Fruit - American Persimmon

This bill designates the American Persimmon as the State fruit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating a State fruit does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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.

Exhibit 1
State Symbols of Maryland

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Statutory Authority</u>
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Chapters 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Chapters 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Chapters 194 of 2001
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Chapters 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chapters 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	<i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Chapters 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Chapters 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Chapters 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chapters 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Chapters 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Chapters 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Chapters 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	<i>Ecphora gardnerae</i>	Chapters 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Chapters 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Chapters 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Chapters 253 of 1973
Paleontology Collection and Research Center	Calvert Marine Museum	Chapters 742/743 of 2018
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Chapters 476 of 1994
Spirit	Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey	Chapters 308/309 of 2023
Sport	Jousting	Chapters 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Chapters 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Chapters 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Chapters 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Chapters 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 74 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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