

SENATE BILL 191

P1

6lr0859

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators Brooks and Rosapepe**

Requested: September 16, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Designations – State Song – “The Heart of Maryland”**

3 FOR the purpose of designating “The Heart of Maryland” as the State song; and generally
4 relating to the State song.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–319 and 7–320

8 to be Section 7–320 and 7–321, respectively

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–319

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Maryland has been without an official State song since the repeal of
18 “Maryland, My Maryland” in 2021; and

19 WHEREAS, “Maryland, My Maryland”, adopted in 1939, reflected historical
20 sentiments that are inconsistent with the values and diversity of the State today; and

21 WHEREAS, The people of Maryland take great pride in the State’s rich history,
22 cultural diversity, and spirit of unity and resilience; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Music and poetry have long served as expressions of a state's history,
2 spirit, and unity, offering a sense of pride and belonging to the people it represents; and

3 WHEREAS, "The Heart of Maryland", composed by Jayla Elise, beautifully
4 expresses the pride, warmth, and unity of the State and its people; and

5 WHEREAS, "The Heart of Maryland" celebrates the State's beauty, resilience, and
6 diversity, capturing the warmth and strength of Maryland's people from the mountains of
7 the west to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and beyond; and

8 WHEREAS, The song honors Maryland's rich cultural and historical heritage while
9 embracing the inclusivity, compassion, and progress that define the State today; and

10 WHEREAS, Marylanders have long sought a unifying State song that all residents
11 can sing with pride, regardless of background, and that reflects the true heart and
12 character of Maryland; and

13 WHEREAS, "The Heart of Maryland" reflects a deep appreciation of Maryland's
14 landscapes, communities, and shared traditions, offering an inclusive and uplifting anthem
15 for all Marylanders; and

16 WHEREAS, The adoption of “The Heart of Maryland” as the official State song
17 honors Maryland’s enduring spirit and affirms the values of unity, diversity, and pride in
18 the State’s shared future; now, therefore,

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That Section(s) 7-319 and 7-320 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of
21 Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-320 and 7-321, respectively.

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

Article – General Provisions

25 7-319.

26 (A) THE SONG "THE HEART OF MARYLAND", WRITTEN BY JAYLA ELISE
27 FROM DORCHESTER COUNTY FOR THE MARYLAND 250 PROJECT, IS THE STATE
28 SONG.

29 (B) THE WORDS OF THE STATE SONG ARE:

I
TOGETHER WE STAND,
IN THE HEART OF THIS LAND.
THROUGH STEEL AND STONE,

WE'VE CALLED THIS PLACE HOME.

II

THROUGH THE CANNON ROAR AND THE BATTLE CRIES,
MARYLAND WAVED AGAINST THE SKIES.
FROM THE HARBOR'S TIDE TO THE MOUNTAIN STREAMS,
WE'VE BUILT A HOME,
TO CHASE OUR DREAMS.

III

WE ARE MARYLAND, BOLD AND FREE,
BORN OF FIRE, SHAPED BY EVERY SINGLE TRIAL,
EVERY STORM,
WE STAND TALL, AND WE ARE STRONG.

IV

OH, WATCH THE BRIDGES RISE AND
CARVE THE HANDS OF TIME.
OH, PLACES ON THE SHORE,
LEAVES YOU WANTING MORE.

V

TOGETHER WE STAND,
IN THE HEART OF THIS LAND.
THROUGH STEEL AND STONE,
WE'VE CALLED THIS PLACE HOME.

VI

WHERE THE HISTORY LIVES, AND THE FAMILIES THRIVE,
MARYLAND'S SPIRIT STAYS ALIVE.
WE'VE WEATHERED TIME, WE'VE STOOD AS ONE,
CREATING HOPE WITH EVERY SUN.

VII

WITH UNITY WE FIND OUR SONG,
RIGHT HERE, WHERE WE ALL BELONG.
YOU'LL FREE YOUR SOUL, YOU'LL FREE YOUR MIND,
HERE IN MARYLAND,
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 October 1, 2026.