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State Archivist and
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on Artistic Property



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March 11, 2021

BILL: SB 8 - General Provisions - State Song - Repeal

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: Letter of Support

SB 8, General Provisions - State Song - Repeal, repeals the current State Song, "Maryland, My Maryland" with no recommendation for replacement.

In October 2015, at the request of the Chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, the State Archivist convened an Advisory Group to study whether the State Song, "Maryland, My Maryland," was a fitting representation of Marylanders today and to recommend alternatives. The panel, which included experts in Maryland history, music history, military history, and cultural history and folklore, agreed that, except for the third verse, the words in the current song should be retired from statute because they are offensive to many and not inclusive of all Marylanders. Understanding that an advisory committee has already undertaken the work of reviewing the repeal of the state song, it is now time to move forward with a decision in regards to its repeal.

Recent events have made it necessary to revisit the removal of "Maryland, My Maryland" as the Official State Song. Long considered racist and offensive to the citizens of this state, it is time to retire "Maryland, My Maryland" and reevaluate the necessity of having an Official State Song. State designations and symbols must be identified and used with care. They should be inclusive of all citizens of the state and be representative of Maryland culture and traditions. Maryland's State Song has created a divide among the state's citizenry and should be eliminated in an effort to unify.

We urge you to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration. If you have additional questions please call Liz Coelho at liz.coelho@maryland.gov.