

SB0191_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/12/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0191 – FAVORABLE

State Designations - State Song - "The Heart of Maryland"

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0191, State Designations - State Song - "The Heart of Maryland"

"Maryland, My Maryland" was a 9-stanza Confederate poem written by James Ryder Randall in April 1861, expressing outrage over Union troops in Baltimore and urging Maryland to secede. Adopted as the official state song in 1939, it was set to the tune of "O, Tannenbaum" but widely criticized for calling Abraham Lincoln a "despot" and referring to Northerners as "scum". **The song was officially repealed in May 2021.**¹

The proud state of Maryland should have a state song and this one, written by a Marylander, is the best choice to become the replacement.

This bill will designate "The Heart of Maryland", written by Jayla Elise from Dorchester County for the Maryland 250 Project, as the State song.

<https://youtu.be/Z6u66UJW3LA?si=IISYeiWVm82G9Zft>

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0191.

¹ Google AI Search "Maryland my maryland song history"