

SENATE BILL 892

P1
SB 19/02 – EHE

9lr3005
CF 9lr2761

By: **Senator Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland State Song**

3 FOR the purpose of changing the State song; and generally relating to the State song.

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

5 Article – State Government

6 Section 13–307

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, James Ryder Randall, while teaching in Louisiana, wrote the poem
11 “Maryland! My Maryland!” to express his outrage at the news of Union troops being
12 marched through Baltimore, and to articulate his Confederate sympathies; and

13 WHEREAS, John T. White, a native of Frederick County, also wrote a poem
14 titled “Maryland, My Maryland” in 1894; and

15 WHEREAS, As a principal and superintendent of Maryland schools for over 20
16 years, president of the Maryland State Teachers’ Association, and noted as one of the
17 most successful educators in the State during the end of the 19th century, Mr. White
18 dedicated his life to the education and future of all young Marylanders; and

19 WHEREAS, As a tribute to his native State, while living in Cumberland, Mr.
20 White wrote “Maryland, My Maryland”; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – State Government**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13–307.

2 (a) The poem [“Maryland! My Maryland!”] “**MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND**”,
 3 which [James Ryder Randall] **JOHN T. WHITE** composed in [1861]1894, and the
 4 tune of “Lauriger Horatius” are the State song.

5 (b) The words of the State song are:

6 [I

7 The despot’s heel is on thy shore,
 8 Maryland!
 9 His torch is at thy temple door,
 10 Maryland!
 11 Avenge the patriotic gore
 12 That flecked the streets of Baltimore,
 13 And be the battle queen of yore,
 14 Maryland! My Maryland!

15 II

16 Hark to an exiled son’s appeal,
 17 Maryland!
 18 My mother State! to thee I kneel,
 19 Maryland!
 20 For life and death, for woe and weal,
 21 Thy peerless chivalry reveal,
 22 And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,
 23 Maryland! My Maryland!

24 III

25 Thou wilt not cower in the dust,
 26 Maryland!
 27 Thy beaming sword shall never rust,
 28 Maryland!
 29 Remember Carroll’s sacred trust,
 30 Remember Howard’s warlike thrust,—
 31 And all thy slumberers with the just,
 32 Maryland! My Maryland!

33 IV

34 Come! ‘tis the red dawn of the day,
 35 Maryland!
 36 Come with thy panoplied array,
 37 Maryland!
 38 With Ringgold’s spirit for the fray,
 39 With Watson’s blood at Monterey,
 40 With fearless Lowe and dashing May,

1 Maryland! My Maryland!

2 V

3 Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,
4 Maryland!
5 Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,
6 Maryland!
7 Come to thine own heroic throng,
8 Stalking with Liberty along,
9 And chaunt thy dauntless slogan song,
10 Maryland! My Maryland!

11 VI

12 Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,
13 Maryland!
14 Virginia should not call in vain,
15 Maryland!
16 She meets her sisters on the plain—
17 "Sic semper!" 'tis the proud refrain
18 That baffles minions back again,
19 Maryland! My Maryland!

20 VII

21 I see the blush upon thy cheek,
22 Maryland!
23 For thou wast ever bravely meek,
24 Maryland!
25 But lo! there surges forth a shriek
26 From hill to hill, from creek to creek—
27 Potomac calls to Chesapeake,
28 Maryland! My Maryland!

29 VIII

30 Thou wilt not yield the vandal toll,
31 Maryland!
32 Thou wilt not crook to his control,
33 Maryland!
34 Better the fire upon thee roll,
35 Better the blade, the shot, the bowl,
36 Than crucifixion of the soul,
37 Maryland! My Maryland!

38 IX

39 I hear the distant thunder-hum,
40 Maryland!
41 The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,
42 Maryland!
43 She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb—

1 Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!
2 She breathes! she burns! she'll come! she'll come!
3 Maryland! My Maryland!]

I

4 **WE DEDICATE OUR SONG TO THEE,**
5 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND,**
6 **THE HOME OF LIGHT AND LIBERTY,**
7 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND,**
8 **WE LOVE THY STREAMS AND WOODED HILLS,**
9 **THY MOUNTAINS WITH THEIR GUSHING RILLS,**
10 **THY SCENES—OUR HEART WITH RAPTURE FILLS—**
11 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
12

II

13 **IN TWAIN THE CHESAPEAKE DIVIDES**
14 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND,**
15 **WHILE OCEANWARD ITS WATER GLIDES,**
16 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
17 **YET WE IN THOUGHT AND PURPOSE ONE,**
18 **PURSUE THE WORK SO WELL BEGUN,**
19 **AND MAY OUR STATE BE NE'ER OUTDONE,**
20 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
21

III

22 **PROUD SONS AND DAUGHTERS BOAST OF THEE,**
23 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
24 **THINE IS A PRECIOUS HISTORY,**
25 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
26 **BRAVE HEARTS HAVE HELD THY HONOR DEAR,**
27 **HAVE MET THE FOEMAN FAR AND NEAR,**
28 **BUT VICTORY HAS FURNISHED CHEER,**
29 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
30

IV

31 **“SAIL ON, SAIL ON, O SHIP OF STATE!”**
32 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
33 **MAY WE, THY CHILDREN, MAKE THEE GREAT,**
34 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**
35 **MAY GRATITUDE OUR HEARTS POSSESS,**
36

1 **AND BOLDLY WE THY CLAIMS EXPRESS,**
2 **AND BOW IN LOVING THANKFULNESS,**
3 **MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2009.