

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 860 (Senator Zirkin)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Birds - Oriole and Raven

This bill designates the raven as the second State bird of Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating a second State bird does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore Oriole is the official State bird of Maryland.

The Maryland State Flag was adopted in 1904 as the State flag followed by the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918. Since then, the State has adopted 20 additional official symbols as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State's Poet Laureate.

Background: Birds are the most popular symbols in the United States and Canada. Every U.S. state and Canadian province and territory has an official bird. Seven states¹ also have an official game bird or waterfowl and one state² has designated a bird as its symbol of peace.

Notes: ¹Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee
²Wisconsin

Exhibit 1 State Symbols of Maryland

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Statutory Authority</u>
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Ch. 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Ch. 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Ch. 194 of 2001
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Ch. 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chs. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	<i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Chs. 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chs. 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Ch. 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Ch. 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Ch. 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	<i>Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae</i>	Ch. 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Ch. 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Ch. 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Ch. 253 of 1973
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Ch. 476 of 1994
Song	“Maryland, My Maryland”	Ch. 451 of 1939
Sport	Jousting	Ch. 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Ch. 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Ch. 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives

The Baltimore Ravens won a second Super Bowl on February 3, 2013. The football team is named after the poem “The Raven” by Baltimore resident Edgar Allan Poe.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 752 of 2007 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 756 (Delegate Oaks, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

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mc/lgc

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