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**HOUSE BILL NO. 565**

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 7, 2008

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 1-510 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the state song.*

Patron—Crockett-Stark

Referred to Committee on Rules

Whereas, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" was designated as the official song of the Commonwealth of Virginia by House Joint Resolution Number 10 in 1940; and

Whereas, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" was designated as the song emeritus pursuant to Senate Bill 801 (c. 576 of the 1997 Acts of Assembly) in 1997; and

Whereas, the lyrics of the song do not advance specific images of Virginia, nor do they laud the great natural and scenic beauty of our state; and

Whereas, the song makes no reference to the great history and traditions of Virginia; and

Whereas, as presently worded, the song cannot be sung with a feeling of pride and affection; and

Whereas, with the following changes to "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," the song now can be sung with pride and affection, the words of which are:

Carry me back to old Virginia,

There's where the cotton and the corn and taters grow;

There's where the birds warble sweet in the springtime,

There's where my heart shall always long to go.

There's where I labored so hard in the summer,

Day after day in the fields of yellow corn.

No place on earth do I love more sincerely

Than old Virginia, the state where I was born.

Now, therefore,

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 1-510 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 1-510. Official emblems and designations.

The following are hereby designated official emblems and designations of the Commonwealth:

Artisan Center - "Virginia Artisans Center," located in the City of Waynesboro.

Bat - Virginia Big-eared bat (*Corynorhinos townsendii virginianus*).

Beverage - Milk.

Blue Ridge Folklore State Center - Blue Ridge Institute located in the village of Ferrum.

Boat - "Chesapeake Bay Deadrise."

Covered Bridge Festival - Virginia Covered Bridge Festival held in Patrick County.

Dog - American Foxhound.

Emergency medical services museum - "To The Rescue," located in the City of Roanoke.

Fish - Brook Trout.

Fleet - Replicas of the three ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery, which comprised the Commonwealth's founding fleet that brought the first permanent English settlers to Jamestown in 1607, and which are exhibited at the Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg.

Flower - American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

Folk dance - Square dancing, the American folk dance that traces its ancestry to the English Country Dance and the French Ballroom Dance, and is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, the Virginia Reel, and heritage dances.

Fossil - *Chesapecten jeffersonius*.

Gold mining interpretive center - Monroe Park, located in the County of Fauquier.

Insect - Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus* Linne).

Motor sports museum - "Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motor Sports Hall of Fame," located in Patrick County.

Outdoor drama - "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama," adapted for the stage by Clara Lou Kelly and performed in the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Outdoor drama, historical - "The Long Way Home" based on the life of Mary Draper Ingles, adapted for the stage by Earl Hobson Smith, and performed in the City of Radford.

Shell - Oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*).

Song- "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," by James A. Bland, as amended and adopted by the 2008

INTRODUCED

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**59** *Session of the General Assembly.*

**60** Song emeritus - "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," by James A. Bland, as set out in the House Joint  
**61** Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940.

**62** Sports hall of fame - "Virginia Sports Hall of Fame," located in the City of Portsmouth.

**63** War memorial museum - "Virginia War Museum," (formerly known as the War Memorial Museum  
**64** of Virginia), located in the City of Newport News.