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HOUSE BILL NO. 762

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 1-510 of the Code of Virginia, relating to official emblems and designations; interim state song designated.*

Patrons—McClellan and McQuinn

Referred to Committee on Rules

Whereas, the Commonwealth has no official song because "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny," declared the official song of the Commonwealth in 1940, was declared the official song emeritus of the Commonwealth in 1997; and

Whereas, the official song should reference the rich tradition of the Commonwealth and invoke images of the natural and scenic beauty its citizens celebrate; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth requires an official song that can be sung on all occasions with pride and affection; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That "O Virginia," by Pauline and Pauron Wheeler, be designated as the interim official song of the Commonwealth, the words of which are as follows:

O Virginia, O Virginia

A rich and beautiful land

We sing the name.

It's a story about her fame

The year was sixteen-o-seven

Jamestown survived, "Thank Heaven!"

But not before they came ashore

Cape Henry was the door.

On up the river they came

On that old lazy James

Now they remained

'Til Richmond they claimed.

To the First Nation People

We owe our gratitude.

So now we stand from many lands

Joining hand in hand

Chorus:

Where did it start - these United States?

VIRGINIA!

Who is called the "Mother of States?"

VIRGINIA

Who will set the standard for the states?

VIRGINIA

We'll lift our voice for this is our state.

VIRGINIA! O VIRGINIA!

She's rich in the birth

Of the U. S. Presidents

It was Yorktown won for her independence.

To those who fought for our freedom

We salute and honor you

So now we can fulfill God's plan

Spread love to other lands.

Chorus.

She's learned some hard lessons

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59 Even made some confessions
 60 That all mankind should be equal and free.
 61 And so with that formula
 62 Made Doug Wilder Governor
 63 Now we all are one. There's work to be done
 64 More victories to be won.

65
 66 Chorus.

67
 68 The Virginia Cardinal sings
 69 In the Shenandoah Valley
 70 And the violets carpeted the alleys.
 71 Wild flowers brighten the forest,
 72 Dogwoods among green leaves
 73 Roses, and honeysuckles
 74 Shed their fragrance in the breeze.

75
 76 Chorus.

77
 78 O Virginia's rivers feature
 79 The Rappahannock
 80 The York, the James, and the Potomac
 81 Where the Mockingbirds trill
 82 And Seagulls wheel
 83 What a welcome flight for a tourist night
 84 To encounter such a sight.

85
 86 Chorus.

87
 88 Final Chorus:
 89 From Arlington to Roger's Mountain
 90 VIRGINIA!
 91 From the Skyline Drive to the coastal tide
 92 VIRGINIA!
 93 From the Shenandoah to the Eastern Shore
 94 VIRGINIA!
 95 From the Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge way
 96 VIRGINIA! O VIRGINIA!

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

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

99 § 1-510. Official emblems and designations.

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

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

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

103 Beverage - Milk.

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

105 Boat - "Chesapeake Bay Deadrise."

106 Cabin Capital of Virginia - Page County.

107 Coal Miners' Memorial - The Richlands Coal Miners' Memorial located in Tazewell County.

108 Covered Bridge Capital of the Commonwealth - Patrick County.

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

110 Dog - American Foxhound.

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

112 Fish - Brook Trout.

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

116 Flower - American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

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

120 Fossil - *Chesapecten jeffersonius*.

- 121 Gold mining interpretive center - Monroe Park, located in the County of Fauquier.
- 122 Insect - Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus* Linne).
- 123 Motor sports museum - "Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motor Sports Hall of Fame,"
- 124 located in Patrick County.
- 125 Outdoor drama - "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama," adapted for the stage by Clara
- 126 Lou Kelly and performed in the Town of Big Stone Gap.
- 127 Outdoor drama, historical - "The Long Way Home" based on the life of Mary Draper Ingles, adapted
- 128 for the stage by Earl Hobson Smith, and performed in the City of Radford.
- 129 Shell - Oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*).
- 130 Song emeritus - "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia Virginny," by James A. Bland, as set out in the
- 131 House Joint Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940.
- 132 *Song interim - "O Virginia!" by Pauline and Pauron Wheeler.*
- 133 Sports hall of fame - "Virginia Sports Hall of Fame," located in the City of Portsmouth.
- 134 War memorial museum - "Virginia War Museum," (formerly known as the War Memorial Museum
- 135 of Virginia), located in the City of Newport News.