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HOUSE BILL NO. 1472

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled December 31, 2014

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

Patrons—Howell, Keam and Simon

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; and

Whereas, "Our Great Virginia," lyrics by Mike Greenly and arranged by Jim Papoulis, meets these melodic and lyrical requirements, the words of which are as follows:

"You'll always be our great Virginia.

You're the heartland of the nation:

Where history was changed forever.

Today, your glory stays, as we build tomorrow.

I fill with pride at all you give us—
Rolling hills, majestic mountains,
From the Shenandoah to the Atlantic,
Rivers wide and forests tall, all in one Virginia.

For each of us here in Virginia,
From farm to city dweller,
All of us, we stand together.
We're yours, we all are yours—
Across our great Virginia.

You'll always be our great Virginia"; and

Whereas, "Our Great Virginia" is worthy of designation as the official song of the Commonwealth; 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."

Cabin Capital of Virginia - Page County.

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

Covered Bridge Capital of the Commonwealth - Patrick County.

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 (Freshwater) - Brook Trout.

Fish (Saltwater) - Striped Bass.

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

- 59 Dance and the French Ballroom Dance, and is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes
60 squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, the Virginia Reel, and heritage dances.
- 61 Fossil - *Chesapecten jeffersonius*.
- 62 Gold mining interpretive center - Monroe Park, located in the County of Fauquier.
- 63 Insect - Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus* Linne).
- 64 Maple Festival - The Highland County Maple Festival.
- 65 Motor sports museum - "Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motor Sports Hall of Fame,"
66 located in Patrick County.
- 67 Outdoor drama - "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama," adapted for the stage by Clara
68 Lou Kelly and performed in the Town of Big Stone Gap.
- 69 Outdoor drama, historical - "The Long Way Home" based on the life of Mary Draper Ingles, adapted
70 for the stage by Earl Hobson Smith, and performed in the City of Radford.
- 71 Shakespeare festival - The Virginia Shakespeare Festival held in the City of Williamsburg.
- 72 Shell - Oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*).
- 73 Song - "*Our Great Virginia*," lyrics by Mike Greenly and arranged by Jim Papoulis.
- 74 Song emeritus - "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia *Virginny*," by James A. Bland, as set out in the
75 House Joint Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940.
- 76 Sports hall of fame - "Virginia Sports Hall of Fame," located in the City of Portsmouth.
- 77 War memorial museum - "Virginia War Museum," (formerly known as the War Memorial Museum
78 of Virginia), located in the City of Newport News.