

2015 SESSION

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

15104992D

SENATE BILL NO. 1362

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Senator Hanger
on February 10, 2015)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Senators Stosch and Colgan [1128])

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

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 extensive history and diversity of the Commonwealth require the designation of four official songs that can be sung with pride and affection; and

Whereas, "Longing for Old Virginia," by A.P. Carter, meets the melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of which are as follows:

"Mid the green fields of Virginia, dear I met you
Where the roses red and white around us grew,
When I held you in my arms and gently kissed you,
The robins sang the sweetest song we knew.

(Chorus)

I am longing for old Virginia, for old Virginia and you,
And I'm hoping the soul within you is longing for me too.
To Virginia, just like the ivy, my heart clings ever true,
And I reckon in the spring I'll bring a little ring
To old Virginia and you.

Though tonight I'm far from you and old Virginia,
I still love you as I did that day in June,
And when springtime comes again to old Virginia,
I'll build a little cottage just for two."; and

Whereas, "Oh, Virginia," by Robert J. Clouse, meets the melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of which are as follows:

"In the valleys filled with splendor,
On the rivers to the bay.
The cradle of America,
Shines with each new day.
And the sun falls o'er the Blue Ridge,
Like a vision found in dreams.
At night the stars all gather there,
Or so it seems.

(Chorus)

Oh, Virginia,
I'll always long to be,
Amid the endless beauty,
In a land of majesty.
Oh, Virginia,
A wonder to behold.
Virginia is for lovers,
Young and old.
Virginia is for lovers,
Young and old.

From those hallowed fields of freedom,
Where so many bravely died,
A valiant cry for liberty,

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

SB1362S2

60 Could not be denied.
61 As your nation lay divided,
62 Through a long and lonely war,
63 A solemn vow was echoing,
64 Nevermore."; and

65
66 Whereas, "Sweet Virginia Breeze," by Robbin Thompson and Steve Bassett, meets the melodic and
67 lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of which are as follows:

68 Woke up this morning, the breeze blowin' 'cross my face,
69 And I just had to look up above and thank somebody for this place,
70 Because He must've been thinkin' 'bout me
71 When He planted that very first dogwood tree,
72 It's where I want to be,
73 Livin' in the Sweet Virginia Breeze.

74
75 Take me out to the country, it feels mighty good out there,
76 When I get back to the city of the monuments,
77 It doesn't matter where I hang my hat, it's home to me,
78 The Blue Ridge Mountains tend to set me free,
79 It's where I want to be,
80 Livin' in the Sweet Virginia Breeze.

81
82 Wakes me up in the mornin',
83 Rocks me to sleep at night,
84 I've got a red bird singin' on my window sill,
85 I know everything will be all right,
86 Livin' in the Sweet Virginia Breeze.

87
88 Just sittin' on my back porch,
89 I'm just watchin' the sun come up,
90 Sweet sweet Virginia Breeze blowin' ripples 'cross my coffee cup,
91 Because He must've been thinkin' 'bout me when He planted that very first
92 dogwood tree,
93 'Cause when that breeze comes blowin' through the trees,
94 You know everything will be all right,
95 Livin' in a Sweet Virginia Breeze,
96 Sweet Virginia Breeze"; and

97
98 Whereas, "Our Great Virginia," lyrics by Mike Greenly and arranged by Jim Papoulis, meets the
99 melodic and lyrical requirements for a state song, the words of which are as follows:

100 "You'll always be our great Virginia.
101 You're the birthplace of the nation:
102 Where history was changed forever.
103 Today, your glory stays, as we build tomorrow.

104
105 I fill with pride at all you give us—
106 Rolling hills, majestic mountains,
107 From the Shenandoah to the Atlantic,
108 Rivers wide and forests tall, all in one Virginia.

109
110 For each of us here in Virginia,
111 From farm to city dweller,
112 All of us, we stand together.
113 We're yours, we all are yours—
114 Across our great Virginia.
115 You'll always be our great Virginia."; and

116
117 Whereas, "Longing for Old Virginia" is worthy of designation as the official bluegrass song of the
118 Commonwealth, "Oh, Virginia" is worthy of designation as the official contemporary song of the
119 Commonwealth, "Sweet Virginia Breeze" is worthy of designation as the official popular song of the
120 Commonwealth, and "Our Great Virginia" is worthy of designation as the official traditional song of the
121 Commonwealth; now, therefore,

- 122 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
 123 **1. That § 1-510 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**
 124 **§ 1-510. Official emblems and designations.**
 125 The following are hereby designated official emblems and designations of the Commonwealth:
 126 Artisan Center - "Virginia Artisans Center," located in the City of Waynesboro.
 127 Bat - Virginia Big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*).
 128 Beverage - Milk.
 129 Blue Ridge Folklore State Center - Blue Ridge Institute located in the village of Ferrum.
 130 Boat - "Chesapeake Bay Deadrise."
 131 Cabin Capital of Virginia - Page County.
 132 Coal Miners' Memorial - The Richlands Coal Miners' Memorial located in Tazewell County.
 133 Covered Bridge Capital of the Commonwealth - Patrick County.
 134 Covered Bridge Festival - Virginia Covered Bridge Festival held in Patrick County.
 135 Dog - American Foxhound.
 136 Emergency medical services museum - "To The Rescue," located in the City of Roanoke.
 137 Fish (Freshwater) - Brook Trout.
 138 Fish (Saltwater) - Striped Bass.
 139 Fleet - Replicas of the three ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery, which comprised the
 140 Commonwealth's founding fleet that brought the first permanent English settlers to Jamestown in 1607,
 141 and which are exhibited at the Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg.
 142 Flower - American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).
 143 Folk dance - Square dancing, the American folk dance that traces its ancestry to the English Country
 144 Dance and the French Ballroom Dance, and is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes
 145 squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, the Virginia Reel, and heritage dances.
 146 Fossil - *Chesapeake jeffersonius*.
 147 Gold mining interpretive center - Monroe Park, located in the County of Fauquier.
 148 Insect - Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus* Linne).
 149 Maple Festival - The Highland County Maple Festival.
 150 Motor sports museum - "Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motor Sports Hall of Fame,"
 151 located in Patrick County.
 152 Outdoor drama - "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama," adapted for the stage by Clara
 153 Lou Kelly and performed in the Town of Big Stone Gap.
 154 Outdoor drama, historical - "The Long Way Home" based on the life of Mary Draper Ingles, adapted
 155 for the stage by Earl Hobson Smith, and performed in the City of Radford.
 156 Shakespeare festival - The Virginia Shakespeare Festival held in the City of Williamsburg.
 157 Shell - Oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*).
 158 Song emeritus - "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia ~~Virginny~~," by James A. Bland, as set out in the
 159 House Joint Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940.
 160 Song (*Bluegrass*) - "Longing for Old Virginia," by A.P. Carter.
 161 Song (*Contemporary*) - "Oh, Virginia," by Robert J. Clouse.
 162 Song (*Popular*) - "Sweet Virginia Breeze," by Robbin Thompson and Steve Bassett.
 163 Song (*Traditional*) - "Our Great Virginia," lyrics by Mike Greenly and arranged by Jim Papoulis.
 164 Sports hall of fame - "Virginia Sports Hall of Fame," located in the City of Portsmouth.
 165 War memorial museum - "Virginia War Museum," (formerly known as the War Memorial Museum
 166 of Virginia), located in the City of Newport News.