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HOUSE BILL NO. 1912

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 4, 2019

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

Patron—Rodman

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Whereas, the state folk song should reference the rich tradition of the Commonwealth and evoke images of the natural and scenic beauty its citizens celebrate; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth requires a folk song that can be sung on all occasions with pride and affection; and

Whereas, "Virginia, the Home of My Heart," by Susan Greenbaum, meets these melodic and lyrical requirements, the words of which are as follows:

"Oh, Virginia, my home and my heart,
Where the rays of our brightest days start,
Home of simple and fine,
Land of dogwood and pine,
See the tidewaters rise, and the blue mountain skies.
Oh, Virginia, in your beauty I see
Future promise and proud history,
As I hold precious memories of those here and gone,
I will raise up my voice with the cardinals at dawn,
To the stars up above, I will sing of my love
For Virginia, the home of my heart!

Oh, Virginia, my home and my heart,
I am thankful for every part,
Mountain high, valley low,
Wooded path, river flow,
And the great days ahead, born of days long ago.
Oh, Virginia, my heart and my home,
Every sunset a heavenly poem,
May I wade in your rivers and sail on your bay,
May I wander your mountains and valleys each day,
To your wide rolling farms, I will open my arms—
Oh, Virginia, the home of my heart!"; and

Whereas, "Virginia, the Home of My Heart" is worthy of designation as the official folk 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.

Bird — Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).

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.

Fish (Freshwater) — Brook Trout.

Fish (Saltwater) — Striped Bass.

Flag of Remembrance of September 11, 2001 — Freedom Flag, designed by a Virginian, as the flag

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- 59 of remembrance of September 11, 2001.
- 60 Fleet — Replicas of the three ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery, which comprised the
61 Commonwealth's founding fleet that brought the first permanent English settlers to Jamestown in 1607,
62 and which are exhibited at the Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg.
- 63 Flower — American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).
- 64 Folk dance — Square dancing, the American folk dance that traces its ancestry to the English
65 Country Dance and the French Ballroom Dance, and is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and
66 includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line, the Virginia Reel, and heritage dances.
- 67 Fossil — *Chesapecten jeffersonius*.
- 68 Gold mining interpretive center — Monroe Park, located in the County of Fauquier.
- 69 Insect — Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus* Linne).
- 70 Maple Festival — The Highland County Maple Festival.
- 71 Motor sports museum — "Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motor Sports Hall of Fame,"
72 located in Patrick County.
- 73 Outdoor drama — "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama," adapted for the stage by Clara
74 Lou Kelly and performed in the Town of Big Stone Gap.
- 75 Outdoor drama, historical — "The Long Way Home" based on the life of Mary Draper Ingles,
76 adapted for the stage by Earl Hobson Smith, and performed in the City of Radford.
- 77 Rock — Nelsonite.
- 78 Salamander — Red Salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*).
- 79 Shakespeare festival — The Virginia Shakespeare Festival held in the City of Williamsburg.
- 80 Shell — Oyster shell (*Crassostrea virginica*).
- 81 Snake — Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*).
- 82 Song emeritus — "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny," by James A. Bland, as set out in the House
83 Joint Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940.
- 84 *Song (Folk) — "Virginia, the Home of My Heart," by Susan Greenbaum.*
- 85 *Song (Popular) — "Sweet Virginia Breeze," by Robbin Thompson and Steve Bassett.*
- 86 *Song (Traditional) — "Our Great Virginia," lyrics by Mike Greenly and arranged by Jim Papoulis*
87 *with music from the original American folk song "Oh Shenandoah."*
- 88 Spirit — George Washington's rye whiskey produced at Mount Vernon, Virginia.
- 89 Sports hall of fame — "Virginia Sports Hall of Fame," located in the City of Portsmouth.
- 90 Television series — "Song of the Mountains."
- 91 Tree — American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*).
- 92 War memorial museum — "Virginia War Museum," (formerly known as the War Memorial Museum
93 of Virginia), located in the City of Newport News.