

1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

989025487

HOUSE BILL NO. 806

Offered January 26, 1998

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 7.1-37 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the official song of the Commonwealth.*

Patrons—Weatherholtz; Senator: Miller, K.G.

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Whereas, the Commonwealth has no effective official song because "Carry Me Back To Old Virginia," declared the State song in 1940, has become so controversial that it is no longer possible or appropriate to use the song; and

Whereas, the official song should reference the rich history and 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 "Old Virginia—New," by John Wayland and Will H. Ruebush be designated as the official song of the Commonwealth, the words of which are as follows:

Old Virginia—New

There's a land beyond compare, with a smile of heaven there,
It's the land that's er'er the dearest as I roam,
Where the hills encircling rise, and the blue mountains kiss the skies,
O, that land is Old Virginia and my home!
It's the land where peanuts grow and the ships go to and fro,
While in Richmond our elected govern so,
Where the "Daughter of the Sky" and the James go rolling by,
O, that land is Old Virginia, and my home!

Chorus:

Birth land of story, homeland of glory,
Thousands of voices are singing to Thee;
It's the place for lovers, new sights to discover,
We crown Virginia, sweet land of the free.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 7.1-37 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 7.1-37. Official song.

A. The song "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," by James A. Bland, as set out in the House Joint Resolution 10, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia at the Session of 1940, is declared to be the official song emeritus of the Commonwealth.

B. The song "Old Virginia—New," by John Wayland and Will H. Ruebush, as set out in the 1998 Acts of Assembly, is declared to be the official song of the Commonwealth.

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