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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Offered January 12, 1996

Designating "The Old Dominion," by Adele Abrahamse, as the official song of the Commonwealth upon repeal of the designation of the current state song, and setting out the lyrics of "The Old Dominion."

Patron—Marshall

Referred to Committee on General Laws

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth effectively has no 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, upon repeal of the designation of the current state song, "The Old Dominion," lyrics and music by Adele Abrahamse be designated the official song of the Commonwealth, the words of which are as follows:

THE OLD DOMINION

My Song is for the Old Dominion.

How I love this land!

Her rolling hills bring comfort
and strength to where I stand.

Her flowing waters fill the bay
that joins the mighty sea.

Chorus:

Virginia, spirit of the colonies.
Strength and courage are her legacies.
Here's a heritage that's proud and free.
Now the rest is up to you and me.

My song is for the Old Dominion,
her daughters and her sons:
their vision and the risks they took,
the victories they won.

Listen and you'll hear the cry,
"Give me liberty!"

Chorus:

My song is for the Old Dominion.
The cardinal sings it too.
Perched upon a dogwood limb,
it calls to me and you.
"Keep the spirit shining bright.
Share the memory."

Chorus:

Alternate Verses:

My song is for the Old Dominion.
I hope it's your song too!
It leads us forth together
in everything we do.
Separate voices join in song.
Hear the harmony!

My song is for the Old Dominion.
She's growing more each day;
city skylines reach the clouds;
proud ships sail the Bay.

INTRODUCED

HJ27

57 Her friendly roadways beckon;
58 there's a Commonwealth to see!

59 My song is for the Old Dominion.
60 Her country spirit lives
61 deep within the coal field,
62 the valley and the ridge.
63 I sing to her in tribute
64 and she echoes back to me.

65 My song is for the Old Dominion
66 and all who hold her dear.
67 Native born or recent friend
68 can feel at home right here,
69 in partnership and service,
70 building strong community.