

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1103 (Delegate Mangione, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

State Designations - Symbol of Remembrance for September 11 - Freedom Flag

This bill designates the Freedom Flag – designed and created by Richard Nicholas Melito of Richmond, Virginia, to memorialize the victims of the events of September 11, 2001 – as the State symbol of remembrance for the attacks of September 11. **The bill takes effect September 11, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Designating a State symbol of remembrance for the attacks of September 11 does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Since the adoption of the Maryland State Flag in 1904 and the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918, the State has adopted many official symbols, as detailed in **Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State’s Poet Laureate.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 169 and HB 16 of 2025 and HB 578 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2026
jg/jkb

Analysis by: Trevor S. Owen

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland

| <u>Type</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Statutory Authority</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bird | Baltimore Oriole | Ch. 54 of 1947 |
| Boat | Skipjack | Ch. 788 of 1985 |
| Cat | Calico Cat | Ch. 194 of 2001 |
| Cocktail | Original Maryland Orange Crush | Ch. 487 of 2025 |
| Crustacean | Blue Crab | Ch. 724 of 1989 |
| Dessert | Smith Island Cake | Chs. 164/165 of 2008 |
| Dinosaur | <i>Astrodon johnstoni</i> | Chs. 403/404 of 1998 |
| Dog | Chesapeake Bay Retriever | Ch. 156 of 1964 |
| Drink | Milk | Ch. 220 of 1998 |
| Exercise | Walking | Chs. 400/401 of 2008 |
| Fish | Rockfish (Striped Bass) | Ch. 513 of 1965 |
| Flower | Black-eyed Susan | Ch. 458 of 1918 |
| Folk Dance | Square Dance | Ch. 707 of 1994 |
| Fossil Shell | <i>Ecphora gardnerae</i> | Ch. 688 of 1994 |
| Gem | Patuxent River Stone | Ch. 272 of 2004 |
| Horse | Thoroughbred Horse | Ch. 359 of 2003 |
| Insect | Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly | Ch. 253 of 1973 |
| Mineral | Chromite | Chs. 486/487 of 2025 |
| Paleontology Collection and Research Center | Calvert Marine Museum | Chs. 742/743 of 2018 |
| Reptile | Diamondback Terrapin | Ch. 476 of 1994 |
| Spirit | Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey | Chs. 308/309 of 2023 |
| Sport | Jousting | Ch. 134 of 1962 |
| Team Sport | Lacrosse | Ch. 272 of 2004 |
| Theater | Center Stage | Ch. 1003 of 1978 |
| Theater – Summer | Olney Theatre | Ch. 1003 of 1978 |
| Tree | White Oak | Ch. 731 of 1941 |

Source: Maryland State Archives