

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 173 (Delegate Allen)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

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**State Designations - State Natural Science Museum - Natural History Society of Maryland**

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This bill designates the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State natural science museum.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Designating a State natural science museum does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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.

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**Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 64 and HB 169 of 2025 and SB 832 and HB 958 of 2024.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 35 (Senator Jackson) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2026  
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## Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland

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<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