

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 35

(Senator Jackson)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Government, Labor, and Elections

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**State Designations - State Natural Sciences Museum - The Natural History Society of Maryland**

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

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Designating a State natural sciences 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:** HB 173 (Delegate Allen) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2026  
jg/jkb Third Reader - March 20, 2026  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 20, 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<br>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