

SENATE BILL 497

P1
SB 343/22 – EHE

3lr0611
CF HB 178

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Designations – State Spirit – Maryland Rye**

3 FOR the purpose of designating Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey as the State
4 spirit; and generally relating to the State spirit.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–318

8 to be Section 7–319

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–318

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Maryland has had a long history and tradition of distilling various forms
18 of whiskey since before the American Revolution; and

19 WHEREAS, Maryland Rye Whiskey is a distinct and notable spirit unique from
20 other distilled whiskey; and

21 WHEREAS, Maryland Rye Whiskey demanded national respect as one of the best
22 whiskeys in the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries; and

23 WHEREAS, Rye is a plentiful, locally grown cover crop affording an opportunity to
24 highlight local agriculture and support local spirits production; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Maryland distillery industry, once a robust and significant producer
2 of spirits, is again growing and contributing to the economy and prominence of the State;
3 now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
5 That Section(s) 7–318 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland
6 be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–319.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
8 as follows:

9 **Article – General Provisions**

10 **7–318.**

11 **MARYLAND RYE OR MARYLAND RYE WHISKEY IS THE STATE SPIRIT.**

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2023.