

SENATE BILL 497

P1
SB 343/22 – EHE

3lr0611
CF HB 178

By: ~~Senator Hershey~~ Senators Hershey, Brooks, Feldman, Hester, Kagan, and
Watson

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 20, 2023

CHAPTER _____

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 **7–318.**

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.