

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

(By Delegates Gearheart, Arvon, Moore, Staggers, Ambler, Cooper, Sponaugle, Barrett, Hamrick, Overington and Ellington)

Designating "Take Me Home Country Roads" written by John Denver, Taffy Nivert, and Bill Danoff and initially recorded by John Denver, an official state song.

Whereas, West Virginia currently has three official state songs as designated by House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, adopted February 28, 1963, including "This is My West Virginia," "The West Virginia Hills," and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home"; and

Whereas, "Take Me Home Country Roads" has a pleasing and memorable tune and the lyrics are an apt poetic description of our landscape and heritage; and

Whereas, "Take Me Home Country Roads" was written in 1970 and released in 1971, was included on John Denver's breakout album "Poems, Prayers, and Promises", and reached #2 as a single on the U.S. Hot Billboard Hot 100 chart; and

Whereas, "Take Me Home Country Roads" has remained a popular and often repeated song for the last 40 years with words and a tune well known nationwide and easily sung by most West Virginians living both in and out of our state; and

Whereas, "Take Me Home Country Roads" is performed regularly at most important events within our state, including the memorial service for Senator Robert C. Byrd, the dedication ceremony of Mountaineer Field, and the pre-game and post-game ceremonies at athletic events at West Virginia University; and

Whereas, The lyrics are often quoted by popular celebrities and political figures, such as former Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when referring to our state; and

Whereas, The song has been covered by artists from Ray Charles to Olivia Newton-John to the Hermes House Band to the Black Tartan Clan; and

Whereas, The song has been an international hit, even being one of the most popular tunes played at Munich's Oktoberfest; and

Whereas, It has even appeared in award winning films such as the Japanese hit "Whispers in the Heart"; and

Whereas, It has given positive images of West Virginia to an audience that would never otherwise have been found; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That "Take Me Home Country Roads" as written by John Denver, Taffy Nivert, and Bill Danoff be designated an official state song; and, be it

Further Resolved, that the Clerk of the House of Delegates, forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor.