

Chapter 48, Acts of 1904.

AN ACT to formally adopt and legalize the Maryland flag.

WHEREAS, It is represented to the General Assembly that the flag designed and used as the Flag of Maryland, under the Proprietary Government, and which is still known as the Maryland Flag, has never been formally adopted by Maryland as a State, its use having been continued by common consent only; and,

WHEREAS, It is not only desirable that the official Flag of Maryland should be formally adopted and legalized, but it is eminently fitting that, by reason of its historic interest and meaning, as well as for its beauty and harmony of colors, the flag adopted should be the one which, from the earliest settlement of the Province to the present time, has been known and distinguished as the Flag of Maryland; therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the flag heretofore, and now in use, and known as the Maryland Flag, be and the same is hereby legalized and adopted as the flag of the State of Maryland, which said flag is particularly described, as to coloring and arrangement, as follows: Quartered—the first and fourth quarters being paly of six pieces, or and sable, a bend dexter counterchanged; the second and third, quarterly, argent and gules, a cross bottony countersigned; that is to say, the first and fourth quarters consist of six vertical bars alternately gold and black with a diagonal band on which the colors are reversed, the second and third consisting of a quartered field of red and white, charged with a Greek Cross, its arms terminating in trefoils, with the coloring transposed, red being on the white ground and white on the red, and all being as represented upon the escutcheon of the present Great Seal of Maryland.

SEC. 2. And be it enacted, That the Flag of Maryland shall be displayed from the State House at Annapolis, Maryland, continuously during the session of the General Assembly, and on such other public occasions as the Governor of the State shall order and direct, the flag always to be so arranged upon the flag-staff as to have the black stripe on the diagonal bands of the first quartering at the top of the staff as represented in the illustration of the Maryland Flag in "Chronicles of Colonial Maryland."

SEC. 3. And be it enacted, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved March 9, 1904.