

'Maryland! My Maryland!' Will Live On Unchanged

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 29, (AP)—“Maryland! My Maryland!” the pro-Confederacy anthem which calls Abraham Lincoln a despot and Yankees “northern scum,” lives on as the state’s official song.

The Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee voted 6-to-2 today to kill a bill by Sen. Howard Denis (R-Montgomery), to repeal the 41-year-old law giving the song its official status.

Written in 1861 by James Ryder Randall, a Maryland teacher-poet living in Louisiana, the song is a nine-stanza call to arms for Maryland to secede from the Union and fight with the South.

“This is a hate song,” said Denis, who wanted new lyrics written to

the song’s familiar melody of “O, Tannenbaum.”

“It distorts history and is an insult to Marylanders who were loyal to the Union,” Denis said.

It was present reality, however, and not any particular view of history that swayed the committee.

“There’s going to be a bloodbath on the Senate floor if we vote this bill out,” warned the committee chairman, Sen. Edward Conroy, (D-Prince George’s).

“Some of the words are offensive to me” he said. “On the other hand, people send us here to do important things. If this bill comes out on the floor people will say, “is that what they’re doing in Annapolis?” This isn’t going to help our image.”