

1                   **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40**

2                   (By Delegates Gearheart, Arvon, Moore, Staggers,  
3                   Ambler, Cooper, Sponaugle, Barrett, Hamrick,  
4                   Overington and Ellington)  
5

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

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

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

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

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

24           WHEREAS, "Take Me Home Country Roads" is performed regularly at  
25 most important events within our state, including the memorial

1 service for Senator Robert C. Byrd, the dedication ceremony of  
2 Mountaineer Field, and the pre-game and post-game ceremonies at  
3 athletic events at West Virginia University; and

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

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

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

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

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

17       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

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