

FrederickNewsPost.com



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Originally published January 22, 2010

Oh, say, can you see

In Frederick we have a deep appreciation for the author of our national anthem's lyrics.

We have a mall, a school and even an apartment complex named after Frederick native Francis Scott Key, and pretty soon our license plates could honor him as well.

Sen. Larry Haines, a Republican who represents Carroll and Baltimore counties, has proposed a change to the state's license plates, having them read "Home of our National Anthem" below the state name.

"Most Americans know the first stanza of our national anthem," he said Thursday in his testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. "Very few connect its origins to Maryland and the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake."

The bill is pending before the committee, but the idea has some competition.

The Maryland Department of Transportation has already planned a War of 1812 license plate.

It will be available in the summer of 2010 and run through 2015.

It will say "War of 1812," perhaps less catchy than home of our national anthem, so we'll have to see what state lawmakers decide.