

Amy Lee

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Marketing Experience

Marketing Specialist, February 2017 – Present

Taroko Software, working remotely with company based in Taiwan

- Write and upload SEO-friendly pages of websites including resumecompanion.com and weddingdresses.com
- Track organic search traffic, trends, and ranking of websites and pages using Google Analytics

Social Media and Marketing Intern, January 2017 – Present

VCU Langston Center, Richmond, Va.

- Design and write a seasonal newsletter sent to Langston Center scholars and professors
- Completed and earned certification from two Lynda online courses in Wordpress Essential Training and Social Media Marketing

Journalism & Writing Experience

Correspondent, January 2016 – Present

VCU Capital News Service (CNS), Richmond, Va.

- Reported and published over 10 articles on local politics and state legislation during the 2017 General Assembly session at the Capitol
- Articles have been published in national and regional media outlets including the Washington Post, Petersburg Progress-Index, US News and World Report, and SW Virginia Today

Communications Intern, March 2014 – Feb. 2015, July – August 2016

Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce, Richmond, Va.

- Updated website and social media accounts weekly with event recaps, new programs, and business updates
- Created poster, pamphlets, invitations, and presentation for five galas and networking events hosted by the VACC

Staff Writer, November 2014 – December 2015

Seoulbeats, online

- Pitched and wrote editorials on Korean entertainment (music, television, and socio-cultural analysis), engaged reader community in online discussion and blog comments
- Personal work from Seoulbeats has been cited in KoreAM and The New York Times

Education

Bachelor of Science, Mass Communications, Print/Online Journalism, May 2017

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, 2015 – 2016

Studied abroad as a year-long exchange student, participated in the Korean Language Institute and studied Korean history, literature, and East Asian film at the Underwood International College

Skills

Associated Press style // Wordpress // SEO // Data Journalism // Adobe Photoshop // Interactive Graphics // Social Media // Mail Chimp // Everbrite // Academic Research // Microsoft Office // Working proficiency in Chinese // Elementary proficiency in Korean

Song of the Mountains gets nod to become state's official TV series

Amy Lee | Capital News Service | Posted: Friday, February 10, 2017 5:30 pm

Virginia has square dancing as the state folk dance and milk as the state beverage. Now it may boast Song of the Mountains as the state television series. On Thursday, the Senate passed a bill to add the bluegrass concert TV program to Virginia's official list of emblems and designations.

The measure, approved by the House of Delegates on Jan. 25, now heads to the governor's desk.

Del. Jeff Campbell, who introduced HB 1927,

hails from Smyth County, where Song of the Mountains is taped in Marion. Nearly every month, country music artists and a live audience converge at the historic Lincoln Theater in Marion for bluegrass, old-time and Americana jams.

The concert series is taped live and distributed by PBS to more than 120 public television outlets across the country. The show is on its 13th season and has featured local, national and international guest performers.

The Appalachian Music Heritage Foundation, which owns the rights to Song of the Mountains, called the series "a strong attraction for visitors from out of town, an economic engine for Historic Downtown Marion and a significant contributor to downtown Marion's renaissance – a phenomenon that is the envy of so many small towns throughout Virginia and beyond."

However, Song of the Mountains has faced financial problems in the past. The program was once owned by the Lincoln Theatre, and in 2015, the theater's board began a restructuring of the show in the face of funding troubles. Tim White, longtime host of Song of the Mountains, was fired, leading to an outcry from fans and Marion business owners who expressed fears for the program's future. Eventually, Song of the Mountains was acquired by the Appalachian Music Heritage Foundation, and White was reinstated as host.

Song of the Mountains draws tourists to Marion and the Lincoln Theatre every season, but bluegrass aficionados in Virginia say the music genre is not just limited to the southwest region of Virginia.



SOTM Lincoln marquee

"You take people like the Seldom Scene, and they were from around Washington, D.C., and they were instrumental in bringing bluegrass a long way," said Mike Nicely, a bluegrass musician and board member of the Virginia Folk Music Association.

"There's bluegrass throughout Northern Virginia and D.C., and there's a lot of roots that come out of that area. I'm not saying it doesn't come out of Southern Virginia and it doesn't come out of the mountains, because it does, but it really comes from all over," Nicely said.

Virginia has two state songs – "Sweet Virginia Breeze" (the official "popular" song) and "Our Great Virginia" (the official "traditional" song). Song of the Mountains would be the only representation of bluegrass and country music on the state's list of "official emblems and designations."

It would join such symbols of Virginia as the northern cardinal (the state bird) and dogwood (tree) as well as the big-eared bat (Virginia's official bat), Nelsonite (the state rock) and performances of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" in Big Stone Gap (the official outdoor drama). For Nicely, the General Assembly's designation of Song of the Mountains as Virginia's official television series is part of an upward trend of bluegrass music's popularity, spurred by the genre's humble roots.

"A lot of bluegrass music is based on true stories that've happened to people over the last couple hundred of years," Nicely said. "A lot of songs have been written about different things that have happened – tragedies and so on that people have written about. That's a lot of bluegrass, a lot of storytelling. It's just an interesting part of history of the nation."

Assembly Passes Bill to Allow Sale of 151-proof Liquor

USN usnews.com/news/virginia/articles/2017-02-16/assembly-passes-bill-to-allow-sale-of-151-proof-liquor

AP

By AMY LEE, Capital News Service

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The General Assembly has given final approval to a bill that would allow the sale of 151-proof liquor in Virginia — a choice available in almost all other states, but one some fear could increase binge drinking and other problems on college campuses.

"I am glad to see Virginia join the ranks of 48 other states that have legalized clear, 151-proof alcohol. The law banning the legislation is a law left over from the days of Prohibition," said Del. Barry Knight, R-Virginia Beach, who sponsored the bill.

Under HB 1842, state-controlled liquor stores will be able to sell neutral grain spirits up to 151 proof (75.5 percent alcohol), an increase from the previous limit of 101 proof (50.5 percent alcohol).

Knight sponsored similar legislation in 2016, but it was vetoed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who echoed the concerns of university officials about 151-proof liquor. "A prime market for these products is young people who are attracted to their high proof and low cost," McAuliffe wrote in his veto message last spring.



A McAuliffe spokesman said the governor has not taken a stand on HB 1842.

This year's bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 36-4 in the Senate on Tuesday. Last month, the House approved the measure, 83-14.

To assuage concerns from organizations such as the Virginia College Alcohol Leadership Council, Knight cooperated with Brian Moran, secretary of public safety and homeland security, to include a five-year sunset clause in HB 1842. The legality of 151-proof grain alcohol would expire on July 1, 2022, and lawmakers then would decide whether to renew the law.

In addition, under the bill, the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control could choose not to sell 151-proof alcohol products near college campuses.

Some university officials have expressed concerns about highly potent liquor. University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan has likened it to a "date rape" drug because of the correlation between alcohol consumption and sexual assault.

A popular 151-proof liquor is Everclear, which also comes in a 190-proof variety. It is made by Luxco, a clear liquor producer based in St. Louis. Vectre Corp., a lobbying firm in Richmond, represents Luxco.

Vectre officials said 151-proof clear alcohols were used mostly for culinary purposes rather than for straight

consumption. An Everclear study conducted in 2015 found that 64 percent of product purchases were made by consumers over age 31.

Virginia and Vermont are the only states that ban sales of 151-proof liquor. Despite such restrictions, Virginia residents could easily cross into neighboring states to purchase strong neutral-grain alcohols.

According to Knight, the motivation behind HB 1842 is economic. A House workgroup report showed ABC sold more than \$13,000 in grain alcohol during the 2016 fiscal year to purchasers holding special permits for industrial, commercial, culinary or medical purposes.

"Now Virginians do not have to drive to other states, and give their tax money, to purchase this spirit," Knight said.

"This legislation will allow Virginians the same purchasing power as 48 other states, have the taxes come to the commonwealth, and provide restaurants with 151 (proof) for cooking purposes."

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Pair seek to help 'suitcase children' with House bill

 progress-index.com/news/20170202/pair-seek-to-help-suitcase-children-with-house-bill

House panel shelves bill will group studies issue

By Amy Lee, Capital News Service

RICHMOND – They call them the "suitcase children" – youngsters who are shuttled back and forth between their parents' homes amid messy divorce and custody battles. Regardless of which parent finally emerges victorious in court, the child loses time with friends, involvement in school activities and a sense of stability at home.

Two Chesterfield residents, with support from Del. Riley Ingram, R-Hopewell, have been fighting for a new law to protect these "suitcase children." Roy Mastro and Stella Edwards drafted a bill that would amend the state code and hold guardians ad litem to greater accountability.

Attorneys who are appointed guardian ad litem in child custody cases are responsible for crafting a report on the child's circumstances, including parent interviews and home and school visits. Sometimes, custody courts are manned by substitute judges – and when this happens, that report is the only information the court consults to decide a child's fate.

HB 1957 would have required the guardian ad litem to complete a certification checklist and collect signatures of interviewed parties to be submitted alongside the report.

The bill is dead for this legislative session. The House Civil Law Subcommittee, which reviewed the bill, has decided to wait for a Supreme Court of Virginia work group study that will review the policies and procedures for a guardian ad litem.

"They keep bringing that up every year. Every year that we've brought this up, here comes that work study group," said Mastro, who backed a similar bill that also failed to pass last year.

"I worked for Honeywell for 40 years, and my boss, when they had a study group or something, he said they spend too much time studying and not enough time with action. And that's what you find, and Riley [Ingram] feels the same way."

Mastro and Edwards don't plan to stop fighting for children caught in parental court battles.

Edwards chairs the legislative committee of the National Parent Teacher Association. Besides being a PTA leader, she is a radio host on WVST-FM, where she speaks about civic engagement. Edwards says the evidence of trauma on "suitcase children" is becoming more and more evident.

"Folks see things, but they don't say anything till someone else brings it to light, and then they jump on the bandwagon and say, 'Yes, I can attest that this is happening.' Teachers are broken-hearted seeing it every day in their classrooms and not being able to really do anything," Edwards said.

"In many cases, even when a guardian ad litem is supposed to talk to a teacher or a guidance counselor, they don't do that."

It's a sore subject for many parents, Mastro says, but not an uncommon story. He's seen friends spend upward of \$200,000 to challenge custody rulings that have placed their child with an unfit parent. Such money and time could be saved and children would be safer, he says, if guardians ad litem did their jobs right.

For now, Mastro, Edwards and fellow advocates are waiting for the Supreme Court of Virginia study, which is

expected to be completed this May. Their priority is making sure a guardian ad litem certification checklist is included in the study. If it's not, they're ready to return to the General Assembly session next year with a fresh bill in hand.

"We'll have to keep following this issue and putting it in the paper, and make sure people are aware of what's happening," Edwards said. "Otherwise, these are the kind of things that will very easily fall through the cracks. Whatever we can, we will continue to do."