



# *Maryland Student Legislature*

Legislative Compendium for the  
2006-2007 Academic Year

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I bring you greetings from the members of the Maryland Student Legislature (MSL), the *Voice of College Students Across Maryland*. MSL is beginning its nineteenth year as the forum Maryland college students use to exchange ideas and debate policy issues of local, national, and global significance.

MSL is a simulation of the Maryland State Government. Students of all political persuasions are encouraged to research and draft legislation and follow the legislative process in order to bring their ideas and solutions to fruition. MSL provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to hone their debating, oratorical, and leadership skills. The MSL experience has always had a dramatic effect on its members and will continue to improve the lives of college students in our state for many years to come.

Every year, MSL hosts four events for students to participate in: the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and Interim Assembly, both held in the fall and the Leadership Training Institute/Interim Assembly and Annual Session, held in the spring. MSL's Annual Session is held in the Maryland State House in Annapolis where students have the privilege of using the state Senate and House of Delegates chambers and committee rooms. A legislative reception is also held annually, to which every member of the Maryland General Assembly is invited to attend.

This Compendium includes legislation passed by MSL during the 2006–2007 academic year. You may find some of the legislation topics to be familiar as they concern issues you have debated considered and debated yourselves. Some are original ideas that our participants find to be worthy of the public's attention. No matter the subject matter or political position, each piece of legislation in this compendium has something in common: the hard work of their student sponsors who took the time to write them, introduce them and gain the support of their peers for them, and the dedication of our members to question, debate and pass the legislation at one of our legislative sessions. With that in mind, I hope that you will take a few moments to read the legislation put forth by our student members and consider the issues that Maryland college students in MSL gave consideration to in the last year.

Sincerely,

Jared Luner  
Governor  
2007–08 Academic Year



AN ACT CONCERNING

**DUI & DWI Law – Repeat Offenders**

FOR the purpose of changing penalties for repeat offenders of drunk driving crimes.

BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
27-101(k)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland (2006)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the Laws of Maryland reads as follows:

**§27-101 – Punishment**

- (k)(1) Except as provided in subsection (q) of this section, any person who is convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of § 21-902(a) of this article (“Driving while under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol per se”) or § 21-902(d) of this article (“Driving while impaired by controlled dangerous substance”):
- (i) For a first offense shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000, or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both;
  - (ii) For a second offense, shall be subject to a fine of not more than ~~\$2,000~~ \$3,000, ~~or~~ AND imprisonment for NOT LESS THAN 1 YEAR AND not more than 2 years, ~~or both~~; and
  - (iii) For a third offense, shall be subject to a fine of not more than ~~\$3,000~~ \$5,000, ~~or~~ AND imprisonment for NOT LESS THAN 2 YEARS AND not more than 3 years, ~~or both~~.
- (2) For the purpose of second or subsequent offender penalties for violation of §21-902(a) of this article provided under this subsection, a prior conviction of §21-902(b), (c), or (d) of this article, within 5 years of the conviction for a violation of § 21-902(a) of this article shall be considered a conviction of §21-902(d) of this article.
- (3) For the purpose of second or subsequent offender penalties for violation of § 21-902(d) of this article provided under this subsection, a prior conviction of § 21-902 (a), (b), or (c) of this article, within 5 years of the conviction for a violation of §21-902(d) of this article, shall be considered a conviction§21-902(d) of this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007



AN ACT CONCERNING

**Education – Changing the selection and appointment process for the University System of Maryland Board of Regents**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor and leaders of the Maryland General Assembly to convene a special committee to make recommendations for appointments to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents

BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 12 – 102  
Annotated Code of Maryland (2006)

**SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

- (a)
  - (1) There is a body corporate and politic known as the University System of Maryland.
  - (2) The University is an instrumentality of the State and a public corporation.
  - (3) The University is an independent unit of State government.
  - (4) The exercise by the University of the powers conferred by this subtitle is the performance of an essential public function.
- (b) The government of the University System of Maryland is vested in the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.
- (c) The Board of Regents consists of 17 members as follows:
  - (1)
    - (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, one member shall be a full-time student in good academic standing at an institution under the jurisdiction of the Board; and
    - (ii) A student member who is in good academic standing at the University of Maryland University College shall be exempt from the full-time student requirement in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph;
  - (2) One member shall be the State Secretary of Agriculture ex officio; and
  - (3) The remaining members of the Board shall be residents of the State and shall be appointed from the general public.
- (d) In making appointments to the Board, the Governor, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE SENATE, AND SPEAKER OF THE STATE HOUSE OF DELEGATES shall consider representation from all parts of the State AND THE BACKGROUNDS OF THE APPOINTEES BY APPOINTING AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF 7 MEMBERS: 3 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND 2 EACH BY THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS WHO WILL BE CONVENED AT THE GOVERNOR'S PLEASURE TO INTERVIEW, REVIEW QUALIFICATIONS, AND MAKE RECOMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR FOR THE

APPOINTMENTS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS SANS THE STUDENT MEMBER.

- (e) Except for the Secretary of Agriculture, each member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- (f) (1) Except for the student member, each appointed member serves for a term of 5 years from July 1 of the year of appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. These members may be reappointed.
- (2) The student member shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, from July 1, and may be reappointed if the student remains a student at any campus of the University System of Maryland.
- (3) A member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term serves only for the remainder of that term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- (g) Except for the Secretary of Agriculture, a member may not serve more than 2 consecutive full terms.
- (h) Each member of the Board:
- (1) Serves without compensation; and
- (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations.

**SECTION 2:** BE IT FURTHER INACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007.



AN ACT CONCERNING

**Vehicle Laws– Seatbelt Requirements for Motor Vehicles Drivers and Passengers-Repeal**

FOR the purpose of repealing a provision that allows for motor vehicles passengers to be traveling in the vehicle without a seatbelt.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article- Transportation  
Section 22-412.3  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2003 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**§ 22-412.3.**

- (a)(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
  - (2) (i) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle that is:
    - 1. Registered or capable of being registered in this State as a Class A (passenger), Class E (truck), Class F (tractor), Class M (multipurpose), or Class P (passenger bus vehicle); and
    - 2. Required to be equipped with seat belts under federal motor vehicle safety standards contained in the Code of Federal Regulations.
  - (ii) "Motor vehicle" does not include a Class L (historic) vehicle.
- (3) "Outboard front seat" means a front seat position that is adjacent to a door of a motor vehicle.
- (4) (i) "Seat belt" means a restraining device described under § 22-412 of this subtitle.
  - (ii) "Seat belt" includes a combination seat belt-shoulder harness.
- (b) A person may not operate a motor vehicle unless the person and each occupant ~~under 16 years old are~~ IS restrained by a seat belt or a child safety seat as provided in § 22-412.2 of this subtitle.
- ~~(e) (1) The provisions of this subsection apply to a person who is at least 16 years old.~~
  - ~~(2) Unless a person is restrained by a seat belt, the person may not be a passenger in an outboard front seat of a motor vehicle.~~
- ~~(b) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to the penalties under Title 27 of this article.~~

- (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES UNDER TITLE 27 OF THIS ARTICLE.
- (D) A violation of this section is not considered a moving violation for purposes of § 16-402 of this article.
- (E) The Administration and the Department of State Police shall establish prevention and education programs to encourage compliance with the provisions of this section.

**§ 27-101.**

- (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:
  - (1) Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any other law of this State; or
  - (2) Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is subject to a fine of not more than \$500.
- (c) Exceptions to this section will only be after a recommendation by a licensed medical professional for a medical condition.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008.



**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING ACT OF 2006**

- WHEREAS:** On October 13, 2006 President Bush signed into law the SAFE Ports Act of 2006, an act designed to increase security at ports in the United States; and,
- WHEREAS:** Included in this Act is a subsection known as the “Unlawful Internet Gambling Prohibition Act”, an Act which twice failed to pass through Congress on its own merits, and so was added to the SAFE Ports Act; and,
- WHEREAS:** One of the major sponsors of the Unlawful Gaming Prohibition act was Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) who represents a state which makes millions upon millions of dollars each year on land and riverboat based Casino Gambling; and,
- WHEREAS:** Major proponents of the ban include Christian Conservative Groups such as *Focus on the Family* and *Christian Coalition*, who encouraged the bill’s passage on the grounds that gambling was immoral; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Supreme Court ruled in a 2003 decision *Lawrence v. Texas*, that it was a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to restrict conduct between consenting adults based on solely moral grounds, holding that “[The statute in question] furthers no legitimate state interest which can justify its intrusion into the personal and private life of the individual.”; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Unlawful Internet Gambling Prohibition Act furthers no compelling state interest, but instead seeks to impose particular morality upon consenting adults engaging in heretofore legal and in some cases state-endorsed activity; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Federal Government is seeking to make illegal, by passage of this Act, a method of entertainment and occupation that is utilized by millions of people for the cynical purpose of maintaining a government monopoly on said activity, under the guise of establishing morality, a purpose which has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on many occasions.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature hereby encourages the United States Congress to repeal the parts of the SAFE Ports Act 2006 which contain the Unlawful Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, on the grounds that it is unconstitutional and violates the rights of American citizens, banks, and companies to act in free association with each other.



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS:** “Maryland has adult obesity rates of 23.4 percent,” and is therefore ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> heaviest state in the country; and,

**WHEREAS:** It is a national goal to reduce the obesity rates in the country to 15 percent by the year 2010; and,

**WHEREAS:** Nationally, 30.4 percent of adolescents aged 12-19 are overweight and 15 percent are obese; and,

**WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania already requires mandatory physical education at all grade levels, with time requirements varying by grade level; and,

**WHEREAS:** New York public schools require 120 minutes of physical education each week; and,

**WHEREAS:** It is a largely accepted fact that athletics promote such vital social skills as teamwork and sportsmanship in adolescents.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation requiring all students in public high schools in Maryland to take, on average, 150 minutes of physical education classes per week each semester for three years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That each student should be required to take the same general physical education course their freshman year of high school, and shall then be offered a number of choices of physical education classes to choose from after their freshman year; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** It shall be up to the discretion of each county in Maryland how new physical education classes will be worked into their credit system; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Governor to sign such legislation.



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING FREEDOM ON THE ROAD**

- WHEREAS:** The Eastern Shore is a well known tourist destination that is visited by peoples from around the world and is visited by millions of people over the course of a year; and,
- WHEREAS:** Without a major airport located on the Eastern Shore, most visitors are required to drive to various vacation locations on the Eastern Shore. The most common of which being Ocean City, located in Worcester County, the southernmost county on the Eastern Shore; and,
- WHEREAS:** Most speed limits on major thoroughfares on the “Western Shore” are placed at 65 miles per hour. Contrarily, speed limits on Route 50, which runs the length of the Lower Shore and is extensively traveled, are placed only at 55 miles per hour; and,
- WHEREAS:** Many unsuspecting travelers do not realize the shift in acceptable behavior and continue to travel at speeds exceeding the regulated limits. Consequently, many people who do not reside on the Eastern Shore are subsequently fined and disciplined for behavior that would be acceptable many other places in Maryland; and,
- WHEREAS:** Police officers are modern heroes, and we must do our best to protect them. However, the speed checkpoints which are common practice and many police officers conduct on Route 50 can be dangerous both to a speeding driver, and the police officer.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to raise the speed limit Maryland Route 50 to 65 miles per hour, except through communities along the highway; and,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to order the removal of signs that say “Bay Bridge Bound? 50 is Swiftest.”



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ‘ONE-SUBJECT’ RULE FOR LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS**

- WHEREAS:** The Maryland Constitution, in Article III, Section 29 states that “every Law enacted by the General Assembly shall embrace but one subject, and that shall be described in its title”; and,
- WHEREAS:** The United States Constitution contains no such provision and as such, Congress is allowed to enact individual pieces of legislation that deal with a multitude of subjects; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Maryland one-subject rule bans so-called ‘omnibus’ bills, which are very common in Congress; and,
- WHEREAS:** In Congress, legislators can pass a variety of controversial measures by attaching their measures to an essential piece of legislation, such as an appropriations bill; and,
- WHEREAS:** One of the more egregious examples of this practice is a 2005 bill containing emergency appropriations for defense spending, the war on terror, and tsunami relief; and,
- WHEREAS:** Contained in the aforementioned bill, and not related to the rest of the legislation, is the Real ID Act of 2005, a federal mandate forcing states to spend millions of dollars to upgrade their driver’s licenses and link together their license databases; and,
- WHEREAS:** As a standalone piece of legislation, the Real ID Act was unable to pass Congress, but when attached by its sponsor as a rider to the appropriations bill, it passed both houses easily and was signed into law by the President; and,
- WHEREAS:** The one-subject rule in Maryland allows constituents and legislators monitor legislation easily and helps prevent against fraudulent legislation; and,
- WHEREAS:** A similar rule applied to the U.S. Congress would help defend against riders and omnibus bills that make the legislative process less effective.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges, that by either Constitutional amendment or legislative rule, the Congress to enact a one-subject rule for their own legislation, similar to the Maryland Constitution’s one-subject rule.



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MANDATORY NUTRITION FACTS PRINTED AND POSTED IN RESTAURANTS**

- WHEREAS:** People with diabetes have to closely regulate the amount of sugar the enters their bodies; and,
- WHEREAS:** If diabetics could more easily see the exact ingredients of the food they order, they would be able to keep themselves healthier and avoid falling into a diabetic coma; and,
- WHEREAS:** By seeing the nutrition facts at the table, diabetics would be able to keep blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible; and,
- WHEREAS:** Seeing the different types of oils that the restaurants use will enable diabetics to know how their body will metabolize the glucose; and,
- WHEREAS:** People with food allergies need to know what ingredients food contains; and,
- WHEREAS:** Possible allergens are hidden ingredients, and if easily accessible at the table, people can avoid these allergens and their effects; and,
- WHEREAS:** Vegans and vegetarians would also be able to avoid certain ingredients that are not otherwise known; and,
- WHEREAS:** People wishing to watch their weight and/or athletes on specific diets would be better able to manage such regimes by seeing exact ingredients; and,
- WHEREAS:** Many doctors and nutritionists across the United States advise patients to eat healthy meals, requiring knowledge of specific ingredients without asking the waitstaff; and,
- WHEREAS:** Nutrition facts posted at every table will not only help people needing this information, it will encourage other Americans to eat healthier, helping to cure this country's obesity epidemic.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges that the Maryland General Assembly pass and the Governor sign legislation mandating that all restaurants in the state of Maryland have nutrition facts and ingredients for all dishes printed and available at upon request of the consumer.



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MARRIAGE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

- WHEREAS:** Marriages occur across this great nation every day not performed by priests, ministers, or preachers but rather justices of the peace and clerks not ordained, but approved by the state to perform the ceremony; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Catholic Church does not officially recognize marriages performed by government agents not ordained by a Christian church or organization; and,
- WHEREAS:** The state is considered a secular establishment based on the concept of separating the church from the state; and,
- WHEREAS:** Marriage is a wholly religious union and if not unconstitutional, at least contradictory in nature due to the widely publicized court cases underscoring the separation of church and state; and,
- WHEREAS:** A majority of states have put the question of same-sex marriages to their electorate with an overwhelming call to protect the sanctity of marriage by keeping it between a man and a woman; and,
- WHEREAS:** The United States government refuses to acknowledge the validity of alternative couples by granting them marriages based on claims such unions would violate religious conditions; and,
- WHEREAS:** Insurance companies often offer reduced rates for “married” couples, but homosexual couples are not entitled to similar benefits since their relationship is not recognized by the state.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature recommends that the religious aspect of formal marriage licenses be removed by no longer issuing licenses of “marriage” but rather shifting the term to “civil union.” By removing the religious connotation of marriage and replacing it with a secular term of the same meaning, the separation of church and state as well as the Equal Protection Clause is satisfied by allowing the government to recognize traditional and alternative couples as existent, but not assigning an inherently religious title to the state issued license; and,
- BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That a “civil union” is defined as the following: A state issued license entitling any two consenting adults full rights and privileges currently enjoyed by consenting heterosexual married couples.



**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EFFICIENCY AND EXPANSION OF MARYLAND MEDICAL EMERGENCY SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS:** Maryland hospitals receive an average of 2.2 million emergency department visits per year. Often these establishments experience such problems as patient overcrowding, staffing shortages, limited funding, and lack of system coordination; and,

**WHEREAS:** Robert R. Bass, the current Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems, recently reported the need for improved hospital efficiency which includes department expansion and better funding systems for hospitals.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly to increase the yearly Emergency Medical Systems Appropriations funding allowing the expansion of emergency department space and for the increase of professional staffing; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Health and Human Services Subcommittee work more closely with Maryland Emergency Service officials to design a more effective and coordinated emergency care system.



**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF LITTERING LAWS ON MERCHANDISERS AND FREE PAPERS**

- WHEREAS:** The Maryland *Annotated Code, Article 23A – Corporations – Municipal: In General: §3. Violations of Ordinances and Restrictions* notes that littering on public land can result in a one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) fine for each littering infraction; and,
- WHEREAS:** In many municipalities and communities in The State of Maryland, businesses distribute merchandisers and free papers by pitching them on the lawns and porches of residents of Maryland; and,
- WHEREAS:** Many of these residents never consent to having these papers distributed on their property and don't know how to stop from having these papers deposited on their property; and,
- WHEREAS:** There are alternatives to just throwing these papers on lawns and porches, such as mail boxes designated for free papers and merchandisers; and,
- WHEREAS:** When residents aren't aware of these papers on their property they may pose potential damage to lawn mowers and other lawn maintenance equipment; and,
- WHEREAS:** These free papers and merchandisers have the potential to cause overall unattractiveness of private citizens residences and for a time they may not have the ability to be aware of these free papers on their property; and,
- WHEREAS:** The distributing of these free papers and merchandisers could have potential negative health effects to both animals and humans.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the State of Maryland to enforce the littering laws of the State of Maryland in references to Merchandisers and free papers on private property.



**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING RECOMBINANT BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE**

- WHEREAS:** Recombinant Bovine growth hormone (rBGH) is a product produced as a synthetic copy of a natural growth hormone produced by cows. This particular product is manufactured by large biotech industrial companies which urges dairy farmers to use in order to increase milk production; and,
- WHEREAS:** According to farmer and veterinary observations, cows injected with rBGH have experience a variety of medical issues including, immunological effects, increased levels of cancer, and mastitis in lactating cows which causes the milk to be infected with white blood cell components; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Food and Drug Administration has failed to enforce the proper labeling of these products, which are sold in most grocery stores today. These products include; milk, ice cream, yogurt, cheese, and any other items that may contain milk.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Federal action toward the FDA for mandatory labeling of products containing rBGH.



## A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College as outlined in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution and clarified in Amendments 12 and 23 of the Constitution is outdated and leads to undemocratic elections; and,
- WHEREAS:** The function of the Electoral College has led to the election of fourteen Presidents who did not win a majority of the popular vote; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College has led to the election of four Presidents who did not even win a plurality of the popular vote, most recently George W. Bush in 2000; and,
- WHEREAS:** Over 75% of Americans are in favor of abolishing the Electoral College; and,
- WHEREAS:** There have been over 700 proposals in the US Congress to abolish the Electoral College; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College leads to an unfair distribution of votes, meaning that people living in smaller states have more powerful votes than those living in large ones because there are more electoral votes per person; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College system does not allow politicians to campaign in non-competitive states because they must use all resources fighting for very competitive, sometimes small states; and,
- WHEREAS:** The winner-take-all method that the Electoral College employs leads to lower voter-turnout in non-competitive states; and,
- WHEREAS:** Twenty-one states have no laws that bind electors to vote for the candidate they were selected to represent; and,
- WHEREAS:** In the twenty-nine states where electors are bound to vote for their candidate, they can vote for another party without being replaced ; and,
- WHEREAS:** Under a condition where there is no majority in the Electoral College, the vote is sent to the House of Representatives and Senate, where a partisan battle would likely ensue, damaging the office of the President of the United States; and,
- WHEREAS:** The winner-take-all nature of the Electoral College does not allow third parties any possibility of ever winning a Presidential election; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College was devised to combat problems such as a lack of public knowledge about candidates due to poor communications methods and as a compromise to the problem of how to count the votes of slaves which counted as 3/5 of a vote. Neither of these issues are a problem today, rendering the Electoral College unnecessary; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College is a major purveyor of voter disenfranchisement; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College is unconstitutional due to the Supreme Court's precedent of "One Man, One Vote" as determined by the 1962 case of Baker v. Carr; and,

- WHEREAS:** The Electoral College was created to ensure that the needs of each state were considered, but today, this antiquated system does just the opposite, it allows for politicians to consider only the needs of a few battleground states; and,
- WHEREAS:** Special interests in large states have the ability to swing the vote of the entire state to one party through the Electoral College; and,
- WHEREAS:** A candidate technically only needs the electoral votes of eleven states to win the Presidency. Those states are: California (55), Texas (34), New York (31), Florida (27), Illinois (21), Pennsylvania (21), Ohio (20), Michigan (17), Georgia (15), New Jersey (15), North Carolina (15).
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College, and to allow all future elections for the office of the President of the United States be based upon the popular vote; and,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislatures urges that all elections use the “One Man, One Vote” precedent, where each vote counts the same towards the election of the President.



## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE ON STATE CAMPUSES**

- WHEREAS:** Recently a student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University murdered 32 of his fellow students at that institution; and,
- WHEREAS:** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has been the only state university in Virginia to have banned students from carrying or having on campus defensive weapons; and,
- WHEREAS:** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had refused the Virginia General Assembly's requests to change this policy; and,
- WHEREAS:** In 2002, a similar tragedy was avoided at the Appalachian School of Law when a would be mass-murderer was subdued by students using their legally permitted defensive weapons long before police were able to arrive; and,
- WHEREAS:** Maryland Universities and Colleges have policies banning legally permitted defensive weapons on campuses; and,
- WHEREAS:** Maryland State Universities and Colleges do not all have campus police forces; and,
- WHEREAS:** The State of Maryland must do everything in its power to prevent such a tragedy from occurring on one of its college or university campuses.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature demands that the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation ensuring that all students, faculty and staff on state university and college campuses are permitted to carry legally obtained, non-lethal defensive weapons for their personal protection; and,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That for the purposes of this resolution, The Maryland General Assembly shall specifically define non-lethal defensive weapons, but include mace, pepper spray, and low power tazers in their definition.