

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
THE AVAILABILITY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS ONLINE**

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30        WHEREAS:        Nineteen counties and Baltimore City require voters to call and/or  
40                                write their County Election Office to request an absentee ballot application  
50                                be mailed to them; and,

60        WHEREAS:        Many find it difficult to contact their County Election Office during  
70                                regular business hours; and,

80        WHEREAS:        The Election Office staff is busy and demands for absentee ballots  
90                                exceeded 24,000 in some counties; and,

100        WHEREAS:        Voter turnout in number of absentee voters has increased in  
110                                counties where the form has been made available online; and,

120        WHEREAS:        More people would be likely to vote if it were easier to obtain an  
130                                absentee ballot.

140        THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature commends  
150                                Anne Arundel, Carroll, Charles and Garrett Counties for already posting an  
160                                absentee ballot request form online; and,

170        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the  
180                                Maryland General Assembly to require the remaining counties to post an  
190                                absentee ballot request form on each county's election office Web site.

200        MANDATES:        Governor Parris N. Glendening  
210                                Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend  
220                                Maryland State Board of Elections  
230                                County Election Boards

Sponsor:

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