

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 THE LEGALIZATION OF SLOT MACHINES AT RACE TRACKS

30 WHEREAS: Maryland is currently facing a projected budget deficit of over one billion
40 dollars; and

50 WHEREAS: Reports estimate that anywhere between 500 million to close to one billion
60 dollars in revenue could be obtained from slots, depending on the number and
70 the licensing fees; and

80 WHEREAS: New source of state revenue would not come at the expense of taxpayers, but
90 from money being to out-of-state racetracks that have slots; and,

100 WHEREAS: Pimilico Race Course in Baltimore posted a 1.6 million profit in 2002, it was
110 less than half of 2001's earnings of 3.9 million dollars; and,

120 WHEREAS: Laurel Park lost 1.9 million dollars in 2002; and,

130 WHEREAS: Since slots arrived in Delaware and West Virginia in 1995, earnings have
140 increased 271 percent, surpassing Maryland by 100,000 dollars, daily; and,

150 WHEREAS: Pennsylvania and Virginia are currently looking into the possibility of allowing
160 slots at racetracks; and,

170 WHEREAS: Opponents of slots admit that West Virginia's Charles Town has hurt
180 Maryland's horse racing industry with the addition of slots; and,

190 WHEREAS: A plethora of research studies, both academic and industrial, suggest that
200 legalization of slot machines could positively impact the local economy; and,

210 WHEREAS: Maryland has allowed gambling since the 1920's and offers several options for
220 those who wish to gamble in state; and,

230 WHEREAS: The Maryland State Lottery generates nearly 7.5 billion dollars for Maryland's
240 General Fund; and,

250 WHEREAS: Some 245 slot machines are being operated on Maryland's Eastern Shore by
260 fraternities of the Moose or Elks, and military veterans associations such as the
270 American Legion and the VFW; and,

280 WHEREAS: One VFW post in Cecil County collected 5.5 million dollars, which resulted in a
290 net earnings of \$247,00 dollars, half of which went to charity; and,

300 WHEREAS: Various studies report that no association between legalized gambling and an
310 increase in crime, suicide, or bankruptcy.

320 THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature supports and
330 encourages the legalization of mechanical and video slot machines at horse
340 racing tracks throughout Maryland; and,

350 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland
360 General Assembly and the Governor's Office to grant the industry a
370 competitive percentage of slot profits; and,

380 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the MGA and the
390 Governor's Office to auction off licensing fees, as opposed to setting a standard
400 fee; and,

410 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the MGA and the
420 Governor's Office not to limit the track owners' in the amount of machines that
430 they wish to have at their facilities; and,

440 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the MGA and the
450 Governor's Office to set up an office to regulate the new video slot industry;
460 and,

470 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the MGA and the
480 Governor's Office to look into expanding legalized gambling to table games as
490 the gaming industry becomes more competitive.

500 MANDATES: Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.
510 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
520 Senator Ulysses Currie, Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
530 Senator David R. Brinkley
540 House Speaker Michael E. Busch
550 Delegate Sheila E. Hixson, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
560 Delegate Howard Rawlings
570 Delegate John P. Donoghue
580 Delegate Peter Franchot
590 Delegate Donald B. Elliot

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