

R044-0203

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 STUDENT MEMBERS OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

30 WHEREAS: The right to vote is the essence of a democratic society, and it must not be
40 treated lightly, and must not be treated lightly, nor delegated with impunity; and,

50 WHEREAS: Young people generally lack the information and understanding about the
60 democratic process to participate in it; and,

70 WHEREAS: Many young people do not cast a vote; and,

80 WHEREAS: According o the National Association of Secretaries of State Government
90 Services (NASS) provider NIC, “Fewer than one in five 18-to-24-year-olds
100 voted in 1998, and we know from our research that many of the people in that
110 age group do not know how or where to vote,” says NASS President Sharon
120 Priest, Arkansas Secretary of State; and,

130 WHEREAS: According to stateofthevote.org nearly half of young Americans (48%) gave a
140 top importance of voting, the remaining 52% labeled voting as “unimportant”;
150 and,

160 WHEREAS: Private youth organizations such as the Roman Catholic Church say that
170 involvement in politics can help eliminate poverty.

180 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland
190 General Assembly by encouraging this state’s youth by setting up a structure of
200 student representation in their Board of Education; and,

210 BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED: That students shall be able to be a voting member on the Board
220 of Education (SMOB), to be elected by the students.

230 MANDATES: Governor Robert Ehrlich
240 Lt. Governor Michael Steele
250 Maryland General Assembly

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