

R039-0304

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**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE
RISING COSTS OF COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS**

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WHEREAS: In the 2003-2004 school year, students spent an average of \$898 dollars per year on textbooks, compared to the average amount spent in the 1996-1997 school year of \$642; and,

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WHEREAS: A recent study indicates that college students are being forced to buy new textbook editions and bundled course materials and are thereby being cheated by publishers who unfairly inflate prices; and,

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WHEREAS: The price of books in collegiate bookstores is greatly inflated from those of popular national sellers; and,

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WHEREAS: It is difficult for school stores to operate competitively in the broader market; and,

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WHEREAS: There is little on-campus competition for most collegiate bookstores; and,

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WHEREAS: The rising costs of attending institutions of higher learning is making it difficult for many students to afford the burden of supplemental course materials and are sometimes being forced to go without these textbooks, impairing their education; and,

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WHEREAS: Affordable college education and fair capitalism is important to the state of Maryland.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the state government of Maryland to create a taskforce to investigate the costs and bookstore culture of collegiate textbook sales in the state of Maryland.

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MANDATES: Governor Robert Ehrlich
Lt. Governor Michael Steele
President of the Senate Mike V. Miller
Speaker of the House Michael Busch
Chancellor of the University System of Maryland William E. Kirwan

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