

SR007-0304

10 **A SIMPLE RESOLUTION REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE**
20 **CONSTITUTION OF THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE**

30 **FOR** the purpose of removing the constitutional requirement that at least one hundred members be 40
present at an Interim Assembly in order for the General Assembly to meet as a bicameral body

50 **BY** repealing, and reenacting with amendments
60 Article IV: The Legislative Branch
70 Sections IV through XVI

80 **Preamble**

90 **WHEREAS:** Both the Maryland Student Legislature Constitution and Standing Rules of
100 Order require that at least 100 members of the General Assembly be present at
110 an Interim Assembly in order for the Assembly to convene as a bicameral body; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** It is unnecessary for both governing documents to contain such a provision; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** It is rare that the Assembly convenes with more than 100 members, and has
140 frequently approached the 100-member requirement, but forcibly remained as a
150 unicameral body; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** To avoid confusing and cumbersome debate with a large unicameral body, it
170 would be preferable to remove the 100-member requirement from the Maryland
180 Student Legislature Constitution, leaving it only in the Standing Rules of Order;
190 and,

200 **WHEREAS:** As a rule in the Standing Rules of Order, the 100-member requirement could be
210 suspended with the consent of two-thirds of the General Assembly, and it could
220 instead convene as a bicameral body; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** This option would allow the Maryland Student Legislature to experience more
240 frequently the process of a bicameral legislature and allow for swifter debate of
250 legislation; and,

260 **SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That
270 the Constitution for the Maryland Student Legislature reads as follows:

280 **Article IV: The Legislative Branch**

290 ~~Section IV: Except for the General Assemblies meeting during the Annual Legislative~~
200 ~~Session, as provided herein, the General Assembly shall meet as a unicameral body.~~
310 ~~Should there be more than 100 Regular members in attendance at an Interim Assembly,~~
320 ~~the General Assembly shall be bicameral.~~

330 Section ~~IV~~: When meeting as a unicameral body the General Assembly shall maintain a
340 Journal of its proceedings.

350 Section ~~IV~~: When meeting as a unicameral body the General Assembly shall be
360 presided over by the Speaker of the Assembly and in his or her absence the Speaker Pro
370 Tempore shall server as the presiding officer.

380 Section ~~IV~~~~VI~~: During the Annual Legislative Session, the General Assembly shall meet
390 as a bicameral body with chambers known as the House of Delegates and Senate. The

400 General Assembly may also meet as a unicameral body for the purposes of conference
410 presentations, elections, constitutional amendments, and as deemed necessary by the
420 State Government.

430 Section ~~VII~~VII: The General Assembly shall consist of all Regular members, except for
440 the Governor and Attorney General.

450 Section ~~VIII~~VIII: The convening of the General Assembly shall be for the purpose of
460 conducting legislative, organizational, and administrative business.

470 Section ~~XIX~~XIX: The General Assembly may convene only if a quorum is present, which is
480 defined as a majority of the Regular members present determined at the opening roll call
490 of the legislative year that more than two Delegations are represented.

500 Section ~~XIX~~XIX: The General Assembly shall possess the authority to:

510 A. Hold elections for Officers of the MSL.

520 B. Debate and confirm appointments for Officers of the MSL.

530 C. Install Officers of the MSL.

540 D. Hold proceedings for the removal of any Officer.

550 E. Adopt the Official Budget of the Maryland Student Legislature.

560 F. Propose, debate and vote upon bills and resolutions duly introduced by its
570 Members.

580 G. Reconsider the veto of the Governor, provided that a two-thirds affirmative
590 majority is achieved to override the veto.

600 H. Perform other functions as may be necessary to the functioning of the
610 organization.

620 Section ~~XIXI~~XIXI: At the Annual Legislative Session, the General Assembly shall
630 additionally possess the authority to:

640 A. Elect an Awards Committee composed of four members of the House of
650 Delegates and three members of the Senate, which shall:

660 1. Elect a committee chairman.

670 2. Select, for the legislative year, the winners of the following awards:

680 a. Most Outstanding Act

690 b. Most Outstanding Resolution

700 c. Most Outstanding Delegation

710 d. Most Outstanding Delegate

720 e. Most Outstanding Senator

730 f. Best Orator

740 g. William Troy Simmons Award for Distinguished Career of
750 Service, which must be awarded to a member nominated by
760 his or her delegation prior to the Annual Session according to
770 criteria established by the Council of State.

780 h. Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Award for Up and Coming New
790 Members, which must be awarded to a member nominated by
800 his or her delegation at Annual Session according to criteria
810 established by the Council of State. Only first and second year
820 members of MSL are eligible for this award.

830 B. Hear the inaugural address of the newly elected MSL Governor.

840 C. Hear the State of the State Address of the outgoing MSL Governor.

850 D. Have certificates of service bestowed upon new alumni members of the MSL
860 by the Secretary of State.

870 Section ~~XIXII~~XIXII: The General Assembly may not:

880 A. Convene without the concurrence of the State Government.

890 B. Propose or debate any issue, which has similar intent of any Act or
900 Resolution of the Maryland Student Legislature within its current or previous
910 legislative year.

920 Section ~~XIV~~XIII: When the General Assembly convenes as a bicameral body:
930 A. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as President of the Senate.
940 B. The Senate shall elect its own President Pro Tempore who shall serve as the
950 Presiding Officer in the absence of the President of the Senate.
960 C. The Speaker of the Assembly shall serve as the Speaker of the House of
970 Delegates. In his or her absence the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve as the
980 presiding officer.
990 D. The Committees of the General Assembly shall remain as if the
1000 body were unicameral and offer its report to both chambers.
1010 E. Legislation will be heard first in the chamber in which its sponsor is a
1020 member and may not be considered in the other chamber without the approval of
1030 the legislation in its originating chamber.
1040 F. Both houses must follow the schedule established by the State Government.
1050 G. Each chamber shall establish a quorum at its first session and
1060 may not conduct business without such a quorum being in attendance, however
1070 a smaller number may adjourn from day-to-day, and may compel the attendance
1080 of absent members.
1090 H. Each chamber shall keep a Journal of its proceedings.
1100 I. Neither chamber shall proceed with a standing recess without the consent of
1110 the other chamber, nor to any place other than that in which the two chambers
1120 shall be sitting.
1130 J. The chamber that last approves an Act or Resolution shall have the
1140 responsibility of immediately forwarding it to the Governor for his or her
1150 approval.
1160 K. A two-thirds affirmative majority of both chambers shall be necessary to
1170 override the veto of the Governor.

1180 Section ~~XV~~XIV: The legislative year shall operate from the call to order of the General
1190 Assembly and continue until the General Assembly adjourns sine die at the
1200 Annual Legislative Session. Nothing within this section shall prohibit the State
1210 Government from functioning at other times of the year.

1220 Section ~~XVI~~XV: The Legislative Branch shall function under these additional rules:
1230 A. Standing Rules of Order – shall not be suspended in their entirety, rescinded,
1240 annulled or repealed. It may however be amended as prescribed within the rules.
1250 B. Writing Manual for Acts and Resolutions – shall not be suspended in their
1260 entirety, rescinded, annulled or repealed. It may however be amended as
1270 prescribed within the manual.

1280 **SECTION 2.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this shall take effect October 1, 2004.

1290 **MANDATES:** Katie Nash, Governor, Maryland Student Legislature
1300 Patrick Abbondandolo, Lt. Governor, Maryland Student Legislature
1310 Dan Holler, Attorney General, Maryland Student Legislature
1320 Titus Hamlett, Secretary of State, Maryland Student Legislature
1330 Byron Macfarlane, Speaker of the Assembly, Maryland Student Legislature
1340 Craig Reynolds, Comptroller, Maryland Student Legislature
1350 Susan McConkey, Chairman, Board of Directors, Maryland Student Legislature

Sponsors:

Byron Macfarlane

Speaker of the Assembly
University of Maryland, College Park
8000 Boteler Lane, Apt. 732.
College Park, MD 20740
bmcf@wam.umd.edu