

**SR008-0304**

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

30 **FOR** the purpose of clarifying the differences in internal rule changes, by creating two separate  
40 type of bills, one for Constitutional Amendments (CA) and the other for Simple Amendments,  
50 (SA), which deal with the Standing Rules (and its supplements), Procedures and Protocols, and the Writing  
60 Manual.

70 **BY** repealing, and reenacting with amendments  
80 Section 1.I & 1.IV  
90 Section 2.IV  
100 Section 3.I – 3.III  
110 Section 4  
120 Writing Manual for Act and Resolutions of the Maryland Student Legislature

130 **Preamble**

140 **WHEREAS:** Amendments to our Standing Rules, Constitutional Amendments and non-substantive  
150 Simple Resolutions are all defined as Simple Resolutions; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** The purposed of the Rules Committee is to hear all of the Simple Resolutions, as  
170 assigned by the Attorney General; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** Constitutional Amendments, considered currently a Simple Resolution, are to go  
190 directly from the State Government to the General Assembly, bypassing the Rules  
200 Committee; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** Each of the three type of bills currently called Simple Resolutions require a different  
220 percentage of the Maryland Student Legislature to enact; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** In order to have clarity in our future procedures it is necessary to create two additional  
240 types of bills, Constitutional Amendments (CA) and Simple Amendments (SA).

250 **SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That  
260 the Writing Manual for Act and Resolutions of the Maryland Student Legislature:

270 **Section 1 – Resolutions Writing Manual**

280 **I. General**

290 Resolutions have one important feature that distinguishes them from acts: they are generally not meant to  
300 be law, but are merely requests or expressions of opinion of the Maryland Student Legislature. There are  
310 two basic types of resolutions – simple resolutions and joint resolutions. Joint resolutions differ from  
320 simple resolutions in that joint resolutions are referred to a committee and must receive the same readings  
330 as a act, whereas simple resolutions are presented only in one chamber (during Annual Session) or before  
340 the Assembly (during an Interim Assembly). A simple resolution is non-substantive – it generally  
350 expresses condolences, congratulations or matters of personal nature. The joint resolution is more  
360 commonly used in MSL to convey opinions on matters of public policy.

370 ~~A resolution is considered “internal” if it deals specifically with the duties, functions, or powers of MSL~~  
380 ~~officers or deals with any other matter pertaining to the operations of the organization.~~

390 **IV. Submission**

400 All submissions in their final form must be submitted ~~on either computer disk, VIA electronic mail, or hard~~  
410 ~~copy.~~ A list of address for mandates is also required. Legislation received after the prescribed deadline

420 shall be returned to the sponsor.

430 **Section 2 – Acts Writing Manual**

440 **IV. Submission**

450 All submissions in their final form must be submitted ~~on either computer disk, VIA electronic mail, or hard~~  
460 ~~copy~~. A list of address for mandates is also required. Legislation received after the prescribed deadline  
470 shall be returned to the sponsor.

430 **SECTION 3 – AMENDMENT WRITING MANUAL**

440 **I. GENERAL**

450 AMENDMENTS ARE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDING THE RULES OF THE  
460 MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE. THIS ENCOMPASSES ALL THE RULES THAT THE  
470 MSL IS GUIDED BY, INCLUDING OUR CONSTITUTION, STANDING RULES OF ORDER (AND  
480 ITS SUPPLEMENTS), PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS, AND THIS WRITING MANUAL.  
490 ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE RULES OF THE MARYLAND  
500 STUDENT LEGISLATURE AS DICTATED BY THE DOCUMENT BEING AMENDED.

510 THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF AMENDMENTS. SL ON IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
520 (CA###-####) AND SIMPLE AMENDMENTS (SA###-####). CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
530 ARE REFERRED TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE  
540 RECOMMENDATION AND GOES BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE NEXT  
550 LEGISLATIVE EVENT. SIMPLE AMENDMENTS, DEALING WITH THE STANDING RULES OF  
560 ORDER (AND ITS SUPPLEMENTS), PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS, AND THIS WRITING  
570 MANUAL, ARE TO BE REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE  
580 EVENT.

590 IN ADDITION, A RESOLUTION IS CONSIDERED “EMERGENCY” IF IT IS ON A TOPIC THAT  
600 THAT HAS BECOME PERTINENT AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF LEGISLATION  
610 OR WILL BE MOOT PRIOR TO THE NEXT INTERIM ASSEMBLY OR ANNUAL SESSION.  
620 MEMBERS SUBMITTING “EMERGENCY” LEGISLATION MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN  
630 JUSTIFICATION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO SHALL MAKE A DETERMINATION ON  
640 THE STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION

650 WHETHER AN AMENDMENT IS CONSTITUTIONAL OR SIMPLE, IT IS GOVERNED BY THE  
660 STANDING RULES OF ORDER.

670 **II. FORMAT**

680 AN AMENDMENT CAN BE WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION, IF IT APPLIES,  
690 MOST AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE FORMATTED ACCORDING TO SECTION 2- ACTS  
700 WRITING MANUAL OF THIS MANUAL. ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE  
710 ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR WHEN A RESOLUTION SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

720 **III. SUBMISSION**

730 ALL SUBMISSIONS IN THEIR FINAL FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL.  
740 A LIST OF ADDRESSES FOR MANDATES IS ALSO REQUIRED. LEGISLATION RECEIVED  
750 AFTER THE PRESCRIBED DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE SPONSOR.

760 **Section 3 4– Amendment Procedure**

770 **SECTION 2.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that upon amending the actual Writing Manual  
780 that the Attorney General be authorized to make any technical corrections necessary to  
790 ensure agreement within the document, but only pertaining to SR008-0304. All changes  
800 will be subject to review and approval by the Council of State.

810      **SECTION 3.**      AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this shall take effect July 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

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