

CA009-0405

10 **AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MARYLAND STUDENT**
20 **LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING IN ELECTION**
30 **PROCEDURES**

40 FOR the purpose of reforming the election procedures of the Maryland Student Legislature in
50 order to provide clarity and efficiency in our election process by instituting a system of instant
60 runoff voting.

70 BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments
80 Article X: Election of Officers
90 Section VII
100 Maryland Student Legislature Constitution

110 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, that the Constitution of
120 the Maryland Student Legislature reads as follows:

130 **Article X: Election of Officers**

140 Section VII: Election Proceedings shall follow the procedural order established below:

150 A. Elections will commence with the offices of Speaker of the Assembly,
160 Secretary of State, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor.

170 B. The Presiding Officer will open election proceedings by stating the
180 procedures contained in this section. In the case of an office where the Secretary
190 of State has certified no candidates the Presiding Officer shall then ask for
200 nominations from the floor. A person nominated from the floor must meet all
210 requirements established in Section V.

220 C. The Presiding Officer will then recognize an individual designated by each
230 candidate who shall officially place the name of the certified candidate into
240 nomination and be given the opportunity to speak on the candidates behalf for a
250 period not greater than 5 minutes, followed by a person designated by the
260 candidate who shall second the nomination and be given the opportunity to
270 speak on the candidates behalf for a period not greater than 5 minutes.

280 D. After all candidates have been nominated and seconded, each candidate, in
290 alphabetical order shall have the opportunity to address the General Assembly
300 for up to 10 minutes.

310 E. After all candidates for all offices have been given the opportunity to address
320 the General Assembly, the Presiding Officer shall order ballots distributed to
330 each individual member, to be returned anonymously, with a simple majority
340 required for election to office.

350 F. THE ELECTION SHALL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH INSTANT
360 RUNOFF VOTING.

370 1. EACH ELIGIBLE VOTER MAY RANK THE CANDIDATES FOR
380 EACH OFFICE IN ORDER OF THEIR PREFERENCE.

390 2. THE VOTES SHALL BE TALLIED BY COUNTING THE
400 BALLOT'S HIGHEST RANKING ADVANCING CANDIDATE.

410 3. IF A SIMPLE MAJORITY IS NOT REACHED, THE
420 CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE LOWEST VOTE TOTAL SHALL
430 BE ELIMINATED AND THE BALLOTS SHALL BE RECOUNTED.

440 4. THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATING AND RECOUNTING
450 SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE CANDIDATE RECEIVES A
460 SIMPLE MAJORITY OF VALID VOTES.

470 ~~F~~-G. Upon the conclusion of tallying and recording of the ballots, the designee
480 shall notify the Presiding Officer of the results, who shall announce the results
490 immediately.

500 ~~G~~-H. The results of any election are subject to appeal, provided that the appeal is
510 submitted in writing to the State Government within 24 hours of the election.
520 The State Government, less any member who is a candidate affected by the
530 appeal, shall hear the appeal within 24 hours of its receipt and issue a judgment
540 requiring a 3/4 majority to overturn the election and having overturned the
550 results shall order it held anew.

560 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this shall take effect immediately following its passage.

570 **MANDATES:** Byron Macfarlane, Governor, Maryland Student Legislature
580 Sasha Miles, Lieutenant Governor, Maryland Student Legislature
590 Christal Shrader, Attorney General, Maryland Student Legislature
600 Anna Barvir, Secretary of State, Maryland Student Legislature
610 Kelley Harris, Speaker of the Assembly, Maryland Student Legislature
620 Megan Sands, Comptroller, Maryland Student Legislature
630 Douglas Testerman, Chairman, Board of Directors, Maryland Student
640 Legislature

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