

R005-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A**
20 **U.S. NATIONAL ELECTION HOLIDAY**

30 **WHEREAS:** The right to vote is the most important privilege granted to the citizens of a
40 democratic society; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Holding Election on Tuesday makes it difficult, if not impossible, for
60 many people to get to the polls to vote; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** This specifically disadvantages middle and low income workers for
80 whom many lack job flexibility to get off work to vote; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** In Puerto Rico, Presidential Elections are a national holiday; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Puerto Rico has a 82.6% voter turnout rate; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** In the United States, where Election Day is not a national holiday, turnout rate is
120 52.16%; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Many college students live away from their election polls preventing them from
140 voting; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** Only 18.4 % of registered voters 18-24 year olds voted in the 2000 National
160 Elections; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** In many regions there is shortage of election judges; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** The hours that most Americans are required to work or attend school are during
190 a 14-hour period which prevents them from working at the polls; and,

200 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature strongly urges
210 the United States Congress to pass legislation concerning the creation of a
220 National Election Holiday for every presidential election.

230 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The proposal for the declaration of a National Election
240 Holiday on presidential election years be listed as a referendum on ballots.

250 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
260 Vice President Richard Cheney
270 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
280 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
290 Secretary Tom Ridge
300 Secretary of State Colin Powell
310 Attorney General John Ashcroft

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