

**R036-0405**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**  
20     **LOWERING THE DRINKING AGE**

30     **WHEREAS:**     At the age of eighteen, society has deemed individuals responsible enough to  
40                     serve in the military, vote, serve on juries, drive automobiles, pilot aircraft and  
50                     purchase cigarettes, though not old enough to purchase or consume alcohol; and

60     **WHEREAS:**     The Supreme Court ruled in Roper v. Simmons (2005) that eighteen year olds  
70                     are responsible enough for their actions that they can be sentenced to death for  
80                     crimes they commit; and

90     **WHEREAS:**     People at the age of twelve are permitted by the FDA to take ‘adult’ dosages of  
100                    drugs such as Zantac 75, Tylenol, etc; and

110    **WHEREAS:**     Lowering the drinking age will not put more youth at risk since youths can  
120                    readily, although illegally, acquire alcohol under the current law; and

130    **WHEREAS:**     The current drinking age sets a double standard for eighteen to twenty-one year  
140                    olds since it allows them to be drafted into the military, vote and have a say in  
150                    our nation’s politics, and be executed for the crimes they commit, but they are  
160                    denied the opportunity to consume or purchase alcoholic beverages; and

170    **WHEREAS:**     In 1984, Congress, in violation of its spending powers and the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment,  
180                    enacted the National Minimum Drinking Age Act ordering the Secretary of  
190                    Transportation to withhold five percent of federal highway funds from states  
200                    without drinking ages of twenty-one, and there being no federal statute requiring  
210                    a drinking age of twenty-one.

220    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**   That the Maryland Student Legislature encourages the  
230                    Maryland General Assembly to revoke the measures taken with the National  
240                    Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984, which established the legal drinking age at  
250                    twenty-one and change it to eighteen, in order to make consistent other rights  
260                    and responsibilities granted at the age of eighteen; and

270    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**   That the Maryland Student Legislature encourages the  
280                    Maryland General Assembly to remove from its law books statues restricting the  
290                    possession and purchase of alcohol for persons under the age of twenty-one and  
300                    reestablishing them at eighteen.

290    **MANDATES:**     Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor of Maryland  
300                    James E. DeGrange, Sr., Senate Transportation Subcommittee Chair  
310                    Andrew P. Harris, Senate Alcoholic Beverages Subcommittee Chair  
320                    Peter Franchot, House Transportation and Environmental Subcommittee Chair  
330                    Mary Ann E. Love, House Alcoholic Beverages Workgroup Chair

**Sponsors:**  
Shane McCarrick, Hood College  
Stephanie Grgurich, Hood College

**Cosponsors:**  
Dan Holler, Washington College  
Holly Brownley, St. Mary's College of Maryland