

R012-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND’S**
20 **“BLUE LAWS” PERTAINING TO SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

30 **WHEREAS:** “Blue laws” refer to state and local regulations banning certain activities on
40 Sundays which were based on the biblical injunction against working on Sunday;
50 and,

60 **WHEREAS:** These laws were put in place and governmentally mandated a day of rest in
70 observance of the Christian Sabbath, regardless of one’s religious affiliation; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** There are many religions that observe Sabbath on Saturday, and blue laws hurt
90 business owners of these religions since they are forced to close two days out of
100 the week, one for their own Sabbath, and another for the Christian Sabbath; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** These laws arguably serve no civic purpose, yet are still on the books in some
120 states, including Maryland; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** While many of Maryland’s blue laws have been challenged on the basis of
140 constitutionality and repealed accordingly, laws which ban the sale of alcoholic
150 beverages on Sunday, regardless of the religion of the buyer or seller, remain in
160 the annotated code; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** By prohibiting sale of alcoholic beverages for one seventh of the year, the state is
180 undoubtedly losing much revenue which would otherwise come from the taxation
190 of these beverages; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** According to the Comptroller’s Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Annual Report for fiscal
210 year 2001, taxes on alcoholic beverages earned the state \$24,552,448; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** Simply allowing businesses to also sell alcoholic beverages for the remaining one
230 seventh of the year, the state of Maryland could potentially earn several million
240 more dollars from alcohol taxes without raising taxes and costing consumers more.

250 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland
260 General Assembly to repeal those laws which prohibit the sale of alcoholic
270 beverages on Sunday, found in Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

280 **MANDATES:** Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
290 Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele
300 Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch
310 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

Sponsor:

Kelley A. Harris, Speaker of the Assembly, University of Maryland, College Park

Cosponsors:

Byron E. Macfarlane, Governor, University of Maryland, College Park
J. Michael Haw, University of Maryland, College Park
Nick Vogtman, Delegation Chairperson, University of Maryland, College Park