

SA006-0405

10 **A SIMPLE AMENDMENT CONCERNING THE STANDING RULES OF ORDER OF THE**
20 **MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE CREATING A QUESTION PERIOD**

30 FOR the purpose of the creation of a question period.

40 BY enacting
50 Section XIII Question Period

60 **WHEREAS:** The Government has a collective responsibility to the legislature. A question period would
70 create more transparency and accountability within the Council of State and would allow
80 the Maryland Student Legislature more supervisory powers.

90 **SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, that the
100 Standing Rules of Order of the Maryland Student Legislature reads as follows:

110 **SECTION XIII QUESTION PERIOD**

120 (a): The General Assembly of the Maryland Student Legislature shall have a question period, preferably
130 prior to the start of debate, that shall last for thirty minutes.

140 (1) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint a Speaker Pro Tempore to moderate the question
150 period and the Secretary of State shall appoint an assistant to keep time.

160 (2) Time can be extended for the question period with a majority vote of the Body in the
170 affirmative to do so.

180 **POWERS OF THE LEGISLATURE DURING QUESTION PERIOD:**

190 (a) The General Assembly can request the presence of the members of the Council of State, including the
200 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Comptroller for questioning.

210 (b) Refusal to answer queries, evading, deceiving, or misconstruing of information by members of the
220 Council of State to the Assembly can be grounds for possible impeachment.

230 (c) The Speaker has the discretion whether to place the Question Period at the beginning or at the end of the
240 day's business unless there is a call by members of the Body to change the order of business, by a two-
250 thirds vote.

260 **PROCEDURAL RULES DURING QUESTION PERIOD:**

270 (a) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall call upon Delegates individually to ask a question and each delegate
280 shall be permitted to ask a follow up question on the same subject.

290 (b) When the follow-up question has been answered by the Council of State member, the Speaker Pro
300 Tempore may call other members of the body to ask new or follow up questions and the process shall be
310 continued until the completion of the question period.

320 (c) When the subject matter of the question touches the responsibilities of more than one Council of State
330 official, or where it is unclear which official is responsible, the decision to answer the question will be
340 deferred to the official that has the closest responsibility over the subject matter.

350 (d) No question may last longer than thirty seconds, and no answer may last longer than two minutes from
360 any one Council of State official.

370 **RULES OF CONDUCT DURING QUESTION PERIOD:**

380 (a) Questions should either seek information or press for action.

390 (b) Questions should not offer or seek expressions of opinion, though it may be based on fact.

400 (c) Questions must relate to a matter for which the Council of State official is responsible for.

410 (d) Questions of law are permitted due to a lack of a judiciary.

420 (e) Follow-up questions have to be derived from the original question.

430 **SECTION 2.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Attorney General upon careful evaluation of
440 the above mentioned sections be authorized to make any technical corrections necessary to ensure
450 agreements within the text of the Constitution and the Standing Rules of Order of the Maryland Student
460 Legislature.

470 **SECTION 3.** AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this act shall take effect the moment the bill is
480 passed by the Maryland Student Legislature.

490 **MANDATES:** Governor Byron E. Macfarlane, University of Maryland, College Park
500 Lieutenant Governor Sasha Miles, Hood College
510 Attorney General Christal Shrader, University of Maryland, College Park
520 Secretary of State Anna Barvir, College of Notre Dame
530 Comptroller Megan Sands, University of Maryland, College Park
540 Speaker of the Assembly Kelley A. Harris, University of Maryland, College Park

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