

R024-0506

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING POKER TOURNAMENTS SPONSORED BY**
20 **CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

30 **WHEREAS:** Charitable organizations are always looking for more fundraising
40 opportunities in order to further their objectives; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Poker is an increasingly popular social phenomenon as shown by hit
60 shows such as Celebrity Poker Showdown and ESPN's coverage of the
70 World Series of Poker; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Gambling opportunities are already easily accessible through the
90 Maryland Lottery, slot machines in the neighboring states of West
100 Virginia and Delaware, and casinos in Atlantic City, less than three
110 hours away from Baltimore by car; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** Playing poker for money is illegal in Maryland, even when the poker
130 game is sponsored by a charitable organization; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** Other states such as Delaware, Maine, and Oregon have recently passed
150 laws allowing charity poker events and more states are currently
160 considering similar laws; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Due to its popularity, poker tournaments can help charitable
180 organizations connect with the community and raise funds; and;

190 **WHEREAS:** The state can collect revenues by charging for licenses that would
200 permit a charitable organization to hold a poker tournament for money.

210 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature
220 recommends that the Maryland General Assembly pass and the
230 Governor sign legislation allowing charitable organizations to sponsor
240 poker tournaments through the purchase of a license; and,

250 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That such legislation should contain restrictions
260 limiting the buy-in a participant can make to \$500 as well as limiting
270 the maximum prize a single person can win to \$5000; and,

280 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That such legislation should also limit the number of
290 poker tournaments an organization may sponsor to three per year.

300 **MANDATES:** Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor of Maryland
310 Michael Steele, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
320 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate
330 Mike E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
340 Nathaniel J. McFadden, Senate Majority Leader
350 J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Senate Minority Leader
360 Kumar P. Barve, House Majority Leader
370 George C. Edwards, House Minority Leader

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