

10 **AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MARYLAND STUDENT**
20 **LEGISLATURE CONCERNING ELECTION PROCEDURES**

30 FOR the purpose of clarifying procedures for the election of members of the Council of State to
40 include the use of run-off elections in cases where no candidate for a single office achieves a
50 majority of votes cast.

60 BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments
70 Article X: Election of Officers
80 Section VII
90 Maryland Student Legislature Constitution

100 **Preamble**

110 **WHEREAS:** The Constitution of the Maryland Student Legislature, in Article X, Section VII,
120 Subsections E and F, requires that election procedures for all offices of the
130 Council of State be conducted on the same day; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The Maryland Student Legislature should take steps to allow student participants
150 who will be voting on candidates for offices of the Council of State time to
160 consider their voting selections as well as give relevance to the annual student
170 gala.

180 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, that
190 the Constitution of the Maryland Student Legislature reads as follows:

200 **Article X: Election of Officers**

210 Section I: All non appointed officers of the Maryland Student Legislature shall be elected
220 at a forum designated by the State Government at the Annual Legislative
230 Session.

240 Section II: The Standing Rules of Order and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised,
250 shall govern Elections for other legislative officers in that order.

260 Section III: Officers shall serve a one-year term and be eligible for only one additional
270 term in that same office, yet may serve in other offices in subsequent years.

280 Section IV: Regular members who wish to seek candidacy for an office shall apply by the
290 deadline established by the State Government according to the procedures
300 established by the Council of State.

310 Section V: Candidates for an office in the Maryland Student Legislature shall:

320 A. Be a Regular member of the MSL at a Chartered Delegation.

330 B. Have attended one official event of the MSL prior to their nomination, except
340 for the Office of Governor, for which the candidate must have attended at least
350 two official events of the MSL including at least one previous Annual Session.

360 C. Not be nominated for any office in which they have served two full one-year
370 terms.

380 Section VI: The highest-ranking officer not seeking office shall conduct elections for all

390 offices. In the event that no officer meets this criteria the General Assembly
400 shall elect a chairman for the purpose of conducting elections.

410 Section VII: Election Proceedings shall follow the procedural order established below:

420 A. Elections will commence with the offices of Comptroller, Speaker of the
430 Assembly, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and
440 Governor.

450 B. The Presiding Officer will open election proceedings THE FIRST DAY by
460 stating the procedures contained in this section. In the case of an office where
470 the Secretary of State has certified no candidates the Presiding Officer shall then
480 ask for nominations from the floor. A person nominated from the floor must
490 meet all requirements established in Section V.

500 C. The Presiding Officer will then recognize an individual designated by each
510 candidate who shall officially place the name of the certified candidate into
520 nomination and be given the opportunity to speak on the candidates behalf for a
530 period not greater than § 3 minutes, followed by a person designated by the
540 candidate who shall second the nomination and be given the opportunity to
550 speak on the candidates behalf for a period not greater than § 3 minutes.

560 D. After all candidates have been nominated and seconded, each candidate, in
570 alphabetical order shall have the opportunity to address the General Assembly
580 for up to 10 minutes.

590 E. After all candidates for all offices have been given the opportunity to address
600 the General Assembly, the Presiding Officer shall RECESS THE ELECTIONS
610 PROCEEDINGS UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY.

620 F. UPON RECONVENING ON THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR THE
630 PURPOSE OF CONCLUDING THE ELECTIONS PROCEEDINGS THE
640 PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL order ballots distributed to each individual
650 member, to be returned anonymously, with a simple majority required for
660 election to office.

670 ~~F~~ G. Upon the conclusion of tallying and recording of the ballots, the designee
680 shall notify the Presiding Officer of the results, who shall announce the results
690 ~~immediately~~ ON THE EVENING OF THE SECOND DAY AT AN EVENT
700 DESIGNATED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
710 ANNOUNCING ELECTION RESULTS.

720 ~~G~~ H. The results of any election are subject to appeal, provided that the appeal is
730 submitted in writing to the State Government within 24 hours of the election.
740 The State Government, less any member who is a candidate affected by the
750 appeal, shall hear the appeal within 24 hours of its receipt and issue a judgment
760 requiring a 3/4 majority to overturn the election and having overturned the
770 results shall order it held anew.

780 Section VIII: No proxy or write-in votes shall be allowed for any election.

790 Section IX: The State Government may issue other guidelines for campaigns and
800 elections provided that they do not contravene this document in whole or part.

810 Section X: All Officers and their appointees, except where provided herein, shall be
820 sworn in at a time and place set aside by the outgoing Council of State not prior

830 to the final session of the General Assembly nor later than the adjournment sine
840 die of the General Assembly and shall recite the following oath:

850 "I, (state name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully
860 execute the Office of (state office) of the Maryland Student Legislature
870 and will do my best to protect, preserve, defend and uphold the
880 Constitution of the Maryland Student Legislature, the Constitution of
890 the great sovereign State of Maryland and the Constitution of the
900 United States of America."

910 BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this shall take effect April 8, 2007.

920 MANDATES: Brian Bailey, Governor
930 Brent King, Lt. Governor
940 Amy Anderson, Attorney General
950 Ashley Sardeson, Secretary of State
960 Mike Tiufekchiev, Speaker of the Assembly
970 Ryan Walden, Comptroller
980 Brian C. Griffiths, et al., Board of Directors

SPONSOR:

Brian S. Bailey, Governor, Maryland Student Legislature