

R011-0607

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET**
20 **GAMBLING ACT OF 2006**

30 **WHEREAS:** On October 13, 2006 President Bush signed into law the SAFE Ports Act of
40 2006, an act designed to increase security at ports in the United States; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Included in this Act is a subsection known as the “Unlawful Internet Gambling
60 Prohibition Act”, an Act which twice failed to pass through Congress on its own
70 merits, and so was added to the SAFE Ports Act; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** One of the major sponsors of the Unlawful Gaming Prohibition act was Senator
90 Trent Lott (R-MS) who represents a state which makes millions upon millions of
100 dollars each year on land and riverboat based Casino Gambling; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** Major proponents of the ban include Christian Conservative Groups such as
120 *Focus on the Family* and *Christian Coalition*, who encouraged the bill’s passage
130 on the grounds that gambling was immoral; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The Supreme Court ruled in a 2003 decision *Lawrence v. Texas*, that it was a
150 violation of the 14th Amendment to restrict conduct between consenting adults
160 based on solely moral grounds, holding that “[The statute in question] furthers
170 no legitimate state interest which can justify its intrusion into the personal and
180 private life of the individual.”; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** The Unlawful Internet Gambling Prohibition Act furthers no compelling state
200 interest, but instead seeks to impose particular morality upon consenting adults
210 engaging in heretofore legal and in some cases state-endorsed activity; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** The Federal Government is seeking to make illegal, by passage of this Act, a
230 method of entertainment and occupation that is utilized by millions of people for
240 the cynical purpose of maintaining a government monopoly on said activity,
250 under the guise of establishing morality, a purpose which has been ruled
260 unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on many occasions.

270 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature hereby
280 encourages the United States Congress to repeal the parts of the SAFE Ports Act
290 2006 which contain the Unlawful Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, on the
300 grounds that it is unconstitutional and violates the rights of American citizens,
310 banks, and companies to act in free association with each other.

320 **MANDATES:** Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
330 Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
340 Senator Trent Lott
350 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
360 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
370 House Majority Leader Roy Blunt

SPONSOR:

Mike P. Tiufekchiev, Speaker of the Assembly
University of Maryland, Baltimore County