

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE LEGAL AGE FOR CONSUMPTION**
20 **AND PURCHASE OF ALCOHOL**

30 **WHEREAS:** In 1984, the United States Congress passed the National Drinking
40 Minimum Age Act, in which any state that did not legislate and enforce
50 a minimum age of twenty-one for the purchase and public possession of
60 alcohol would be subjected to a decrease in Federal highway funding;
70 and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Since the passing of the aforementioned Act, all fifty states have passed
90 legislation changing the drinking age to twenty-one; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** A drinking age of twenty-one is incongruent with the fact that a person
110 of a younger age can potentially be drafted to serve in the military and
120 is also granted important responsibilities such as the right to vote; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** A high drinking age causes alcohol to be viewed as the ‘forbidden fruit’,
140 causing underage people to use alcohol excessively and irresponsibility
150 when they are able to obtain access to alcoholic beverages; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** A lower drinking age will enable young people to ease in to the
170 consumption of alcohol more responsibly; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** Most countries maintain a legal drinking age under twenty-one,
190 typically around the age of eighteen; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** A drinking age of nineteen will allow more adults to purchase and
210 consume alcoholic beverages, but will be high enough to prevent most
220 high school seniors, who often turn eighteen before graduation, from
230 purchasing alcoholic beverages for younger high school students.

240 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges
250 Congress to repeal the National Drinking Minimum Age Act so that
260 federal highway funding is not linked to a state’s drinking age; and,

270 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
280 Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation lowering the drinking
290 age to nineteen once the aforementioned federal legislation is passed;
300 and,

310 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That it is the position of the Maryland Student
320 Legislature that while a lower drinking age is acceptable, the
330 irresponsible use of alcohol is unacceptable at any age.

340 **MANDATES:** Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
350 Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate
360 George W. Bush, President of the United States
370 John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives
380 Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate
390 Martin J. O’Malley, Governor of Maryland
400 Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
410 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Maryland Senate
420 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

SPONSOR:

Ryan Walden, Comptroller of the Maryland Student Legislature
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Email: rwalden1@umbc.edu

CO-SPONSOR:

Ashley Barbera, University of Maryland, Baltimore County