

R034-0607

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MARRIAGE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

20 **WHEREAS:** Marriages occur across this great nation every day not performed by priests,
30 ministers, or preachers but rather justices of the peace and clerks not ordained,
40 but approved by the state to perform the ceremony; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** The Catholic Church does not officially recognize marriages performed by
60 government agents not ordained by a Christian church or organization; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** The state is considered a secular establishment based on the concept of
80 separating the church from the state; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Marriage is a wholly religious union and if not unconstitutional, at least
100 contradictory in nature due to the widely publicized court cases underscoring the
110 separation of church and state; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** A majority of states have put the question of same-sex marriages to their
130 electorate with an overwhelming call to protect the sanctity of marriage by
140 keeping it between a man and a woman; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** The United States government refuses to acknowledge the validity of alternative
160 couples by granting them marriages based on claims such unions would violate
170 religious conditions; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** Insurance companies often offer reduced rates for “married” couples, but
190 homosexual couples are not entitled to similar benefits since their relationship is
200 not recognized by the state.

210 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature recommends that
220 the religious aspect of formal marriage licenses be removed by no longer issuing
230 licenses of “marriage” but rather shifting the term to “civil union.” By removing
240 the religious connotation of marriage and replacing it with a secular term of the
250 same meaning, the separation of church and state as well as the Equal
260 Protection Clause is satisfied by allowing the government to recognize
270 traditional and alternative couples as existent, but not assigning an inherently
280 religious title to the state issued license; and,

290 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That a “civil union” is defined as the following: A state issued
300 license entitling any two consenting adults full rights and privileges currently
310 enjoyed by consenting heterosexual married couples.

320 **MANDATES:** Governor Martin J. O’Malley
330 Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
340 Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller
350 House Speaker Michael Busch

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