

R018-0809

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE CIVIC DUTIES**

20 **WHEREAS:** Our great nation is dependent on civic participation mainly through the election of
30 public officials; and,

40 **WHEREAS:** Our country’s voter turnout rate is a mere 48.3%, which ranks us 139 out of 172
50 ranked countries; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Voting is the most important of all our civic duties; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** There are many factors inhibiting our citizens’ ability to effectively vote including
80 employment and school; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Creating a state holiday for Election Day would greatly encourage higher voter
100 turnout; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** We charge our citizens with voting in every election;

100 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Maryland Student Legislature urges the creation of a
110 state holiday coinciding with Election Day each year to encourage citizens to vote; and,

120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This state holiday would require that all state offices, banks,
130 and all public and private schools, including colleges and universities, close for the day; and,

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** All employers must allow each of their employees adequate
150 time to cast their vote or be assessed a fine of \$250 per employee held.

160 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That this state holiday goes into effect for the next
170 Congressional election.

180 **MANDATES:** Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland
190 Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
200 Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, President of the Maryland Senate
210 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates
220 Edward J. Kasemeyer, Maryland Senate Majority Leader
230 David R. Brinkley, Maryland Senate Minority Leader
240 Kumar P. Barve, Maryland House Majority Leader
250 Anthony J. O’Donnell, Maryland House Minority Leader

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