R018–0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE CIVIC DUTIES

WHEREAS: Our great nation is dependent on civic participation mainly through the lection of public officials; and,

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

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

WHEREAS: There are many factors inhibiting our citizens' ability to effectively vote including employment and school; and,

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

WHEREAS: We charge our citizens with voting in every election.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Maryland Student Legislature urges the creation of a state holiday coinciding with Election Day each year to encourage citizens to vote.

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

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

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

MANDATES: Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland

Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland

Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Maryland Senate

Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

Edward J. Kasemeyer, Maryland Senate Majority Leader

David R. Brinkley, Maryland Senate Minority Leader

Kumar P. Barve, Maryland House Majority Leader

Anthony J. O'Donnell, Maryland House Minority Leader

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