



Maryland Student Legislature

2008-2009 Legislative Compendium

<http://www.msl.org>



I bring you greetings from the members of the Maryland Student Legislature (MSL), the *Voice of College Students Across Maryland*. MSL is beginning its Twenty-first year as the forum Maryland college students use to exchange ideas and debate policy issues of local, national, and global significance.

MSL is a simulation of the Maryland State Government. Students of all political persuasions are encouraged to research and draft legislation and follow the legislative process in order to bring their ideas and solutions to fruition. MSL provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to hone their debating, oratorical, and leadership skills. The MSL experience has always had a dramatic effect on its members and will continue to improve the lives of college students in our state for many years to come.

Every year, MSL hosts four events for students to participate in: the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and Interim Assembly, both held in the fall and the Leadership Training Institute/Interim Assembly and Annual Session, held in the spring. MSL's Annual Session is held in the Maryland State House in Annapolis where students have the privilege of using the state Senate and House of Delegates chambers and committee rooms. A legislative reception is also held annually, to which every member of the Maryland General Assembly is invited to attend.

This Compendium includes legislation passed by MSL during the 2008-2009 academic year. You may find some of the legislation topics to be familiar as they concern issues you have debated considered and debated yourselves. Some are original ideas that our participants find to be worthy of the public's attention. No matter the subject matter or political position, each piece of legislation in this compendium has something in common: the hard work of their student sponsors who took the time to write them, introduce them and gain the support of their peers for them, and the dedication of our members to question, debate and pass the legislation at one of our legislative sessions. With that in mind, I hope that you will take a few moments to read the legislation put forth by our student members and consider the issues that Maryland college students in MSL gave consideration to in the last year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Santos
Governor
2009-2010 Academic Year

Acts Concerning...	(Page #)
Election Law - Primary Elections - Write in votes	5
Vehicle Laws - Operating a Non-motor Vehicle While Under the Influence	6-7
Elections - Special Elections - United States Senators	8-9
Election Law - Primary Elections - Write in votes	10-11
The Decriminalization of Sodomy and Other Sexual Acts in the State of Maryland	12
Crimes - Harassment - Electronic Communications	13-14
Plastic Bags - Standards for Use	15-16
Health - General - Miscellaneous Health Provisions - Breast Feeding	17

Resolutions Concerning...	
Transparency and Accountability in University Budgeting Process	18
Equality for the Blind	19
Making College More Affordable	20
The Right to Exercise Civic Duties	21
Dining Tray Distribution	22
The Compensation of Legislators in the United States Congress	23
The Continued Financial Stability of the United States	24
The Failure of Congress to act to Prevent the Economic Crisis of 2008	25
The Reformation of the Driver Training and Licensing System in the State of Maryland	26
The State's Driver's Examination	27
System of Measurement	28
The Cross County Connector	29
An Amendment to the U.S. Constitution Granting the President Line Item Veto Power	30
The Strategic Placement of Recycling Bins	31
The Abolishment of Capital Punishment in the State of Maryland	32
The Participation of Haiti in the Diversity Visa Program	33
The United States Embargo of Cuba	34
The Constitutionality of Speed Cameras	35
The Composition of Sex Education Curricula	36
The Establishment of an Inner Purple Line	37
The Morale of American Military Personnel	38
Making Textbooks More Affordable	39
Maryland Route 200	40
Aquaculture in the Chesapeake Bay	41-42
Immigrant Military Service	43
The Future Prosperity of the People's of the United States of America	44
The Future of the United States Formula One Grand Prix	45-46

Public Medical Research Spending in the United States	47
The Integrity of Due Process in the State of Maryland	48
The Preservation of Open Land on the Eastern Shore	49
Fuel Efficiency Standards in the US	50
The Health and Well-Being of Maryland Citizens	51
Transportation in Maryland	52
Adult Literacy in Maryland	53
Foreign Language Education	54
Deforestation Along the Chesapeake Bay	55
Police Officer Uniforms and Attire in the State of Maryland	56
The Education of Maryland Foster Care Children	57
Simple Resolutions Concerning...	
Maryland's Educators	58
Senator Russ Feingold	59

A005 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING

Election Law – Primary Elections – Write-In Votes

FOR the purpose of allowing write-in votes in primary elections.

BY repealing,
Article – Election Law
Section 8-205
Annotated Code of Maryland (2007)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, that the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~A voter may not cast a write in vote in a primary election.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act take effect October 1, 2009

SPONSOR:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws-Operating a non-motor vehicle while under the influence

FOR the purpose of changing the penalty that may be imposed again for operating a non-motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 11-139 and Section 21-905 of Article-Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be added.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 27-101 of Article-Transportation be amended.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 11-139 through 11-206, respectively, of Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 11-140 through 11-207, respectively.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article-Transportation
§11-139

(a) "NON-MOTOR VEHICLE" MEANS:

(1) ANY DEVICE IN, ON, OR BY WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL OR PROPERTY IS OR MIGHT BE TRANSPORTED THAT DOES NOT USE ANY FORM OF MOTOR.

(2) "NON-MOTOR VEHICLE" INCLUDED BICYCLES AS DEFINED IN §11-04-BICYCLE AND SCOOTERS AS DEFINED IN §11-154.1-SCOOTER.

§21-905

(a) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ANY NON-MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.

(2) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ANY NON-MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE THE PERSON IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL PER SE.

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT VIOLATE PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHILE TRANSPORTING A MINOR.

(b) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ANY NON-MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE IMPAIRED BY ALCOHOL.

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT VIOLATE PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHILE TRANSPORTING A MINOR.

(c) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ANY NON-MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE HE IS SO FAR IMPAIRED BY ANY DRUG, ANY COMBINATION OF DRUGS, OR A COMBINATION OF ONE OF MORE DRUGS

AND ALCOHOL THAT HE CANNOT OPERATE A NON-MOTOR VEHICLE SAFELY.

(2) IT IS NOT A DEFENSE TO ANY CHARGE OF VIOLATING THIS SUBSECTION THAT THE PERSON CHARGED IS OR WAS ENTITLED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE TO USE THE DRUG, COMBINATION OF DRUGS, OR COMBINATION OF ONE OR MORE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, UNLESS THE PERSON WAS UNAWARE THAT THE DRUG OR COMBINATION WOULD MAKE THE PERSON INCAPABLE OF SAFELY OPERATING A NON-MOTOR VEHICLE.

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT VIOLATE PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHILE TRANSPORTING A MINOR.

(d) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ANY NON-MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE THE PERSON IS IMPAIRED BY ANY CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN § 5-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, IF THE PERSON IS NOT ENTITLED TO USE THE CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.

(2) A PERSON MAY NOT VIOLATE PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHILE TRANSPORTING A MINOR.

(e) FOR PURPOSES OF THE APPLICATION OF SUBSEQUENT OFFENDER PENALTIES UNDER § 27-101 OF THIS ARTICLE, A CONVICTION FOR A CRIME COMMITTED IN ANOTHER STATE OR FEDERAL JURISDICTION THAT, IF COMMITTED IN THIS STATE, WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (a), (b), (c), OR (d) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (a), (b), (c), OR (d) OF THIS SECTION.

§27-101

(a-bb)

(cc) ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 21-905 OF THIS ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO:

(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$100 AND NOT MORE THAN \$500, AND/OR UP TO 6 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

(2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$250 AND NOT MORE THAN \$1,000, AND/OR UP TO 25 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

(3) FOR A THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$500 AND NOT MORE THAN \$2,500, AND/OR UP TO 2 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

(4) ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS OF § 21-905(a), (b), (c), OR (d) OF THIS ARTICLE WITHIN 1 YEAR OF A PRIOR CONVICTION OF ANY OFFENSE UNDER THAT SUBSECTION IS SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM MANDATORY SENTENCE OF 5 DAY IMPRISONMENT.

(5) ANY VIOLATION OF § 21-905(a), (b), (c), OR (d) OF THIS ARTICLE WITH A MINOR IS SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$500 AND NOT MORE THAN \$1,000, AND/OR UP TO 1 MONTH IMPRISONMENT.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this law shall take effect June 1, 2009.

Sponsor:

Shea Beitler-Akman
McDaniel College

A009 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING

Elections – Special Elections – United States Senators

FOR the purpose of designating the selection of United States Senators in the case of vacancy.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Elections,
Section 8-401, Section 8-602
Annotated Code of Maryland

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Elections
§ 8-401

(a) A special primary election and a special general election may be held at a time other than the date of a regular primary election and a regular general election:

- (1) to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress; or
- (2) to fill a vacancy in the county council if the charter of that county provides for special elections.

(b)

- (1) Special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress shall be held at the time specified in Subtitle 7 of this title.
- (2) Special elections to fill vacancies in a county council shall be held as provided in the county charter.

(c) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator shall be held ~~concurrently with a regular election~~ ONE MONTH AFTER THE VACANCY TAKES EFFECT as provided in Subtitle 6 of this title.

SECTION 2: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Elections
§ 8-602

(a)

- (1) If there is a vacancy in the office of United States Senator, the Governor shall ~~appoint an eligible individual to fill the vacancy~~ ISSUE A PROCLAMATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCCURRENCE OF THE VACANCY DECLARING THAT A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND A SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION SHALL BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME ONE MONTH FROM THE DAY OF THE PROCLAMATION.

(2) ~~Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, the appointed ELECTED individual shall serve THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM until a successor is elected pursuant to subsection the date that is 21 days before the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy for the election that is held in the fourth year of the term.~~

(b) If the vacancy occurs before the date that is 21 days before the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy for the next succeeding regular statewide election, the Governor shall issue a proclamation immediately after the occurrence of the vacancy declaring that a special primary election and a special general election shall be held at the same time as the next regular statewide primary election and regular statewide general election.

SECTION 3: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act shall take effect January 1, 2010.

SPONSOR

Matthew G. Dungan-Abney
McDaniel College

A019 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING

Election Law

FOR the purpose of ensuring the fairness of Maryland elections

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Election Law
Section 10 – 101
Annotated Code of Maryland (2008)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT
LEGISLATURE, That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

§10–101.

(a)

(1) Each local board shall designate a polling place that meets the requirements of this subsection for each precinct in the county as established by the local board in accordance with Title 2 of this article.

(2) Each polling place shall:

- (i) provide an environment that is suitable to the proper conduct of an election;
- (ii) be located as conveniently as practicable for the majority of registered voters assigned to that polling place;
- (iii) except as authorized in paragraph (4) of this subsection, be in a public building;
- (iv) be in the precinct that it serves unless no suitable location for a polling place can be found within that precinct, in which case the board may establish the polling place in an adjacent precinct; ~~and~~
- (v) whenever practicable, be selected and arranged to avoid architectural and other barriers that impede access or voting by elderly and physically disabled voters.; AND

(VI) ALLOW CAMPAIGN SIGNS TO BE PLACED AT THE
POLLING PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE 100 FOOT NO-
ELECTIONEERING ZONE.

(3)

- (i) The public official responsible for the use of any public building requested by a local board for a polling place shall make available to the local board, without charge, the space that is needed in the building for the proper conduct of an election.
- (ii) Light, heat, and custodial and janitorial services for the space shall be provided to the local board without charge.

(4)

(i) If suitable space in a public building is not available, a local board may pay a reasonable fee for the use of space in a privately owned building.

(ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, an election may not be held in any building or part of any building used or occupied by an establishment that holds an alcoholic beverages license.

(iii) An election may be held in a building that is owned and occupied by an establishment that holds an alcoholic beverages license if:

1. the local board determines that there is no suitable alternative place to hold an election;
2. the licensee agrees not to sell or dispense alcoholic beverages during the period beginning 2 hours before the polls open and ending 2 hours after the polls close; and
3. where applicable, all ballots are removed from the polling place by the local board immediately following the election.

(5) If a polling place is located in a building owned or leased by a volunteer fire company or rescue squad, the volunteer fire company or rescue squad may require the local board to pay for the use of the space that is needed in the building for the proper conduct of any election.

(b)

(1)

(i) In Baltimore City, public buildings shall be used for polling places to the greatest extent feasible.

(ii) For rental of privately owned polling places in Baltimore City, the local board shall pay an amount as determined in the ordinance of estimates, provided that the amount is uniform on a citywide basis.

(2) In Charles County, the local board may use private firehouses, private halls, and other buildings for polling places.

(3) In Montgomery County, the County Board of Education shall make available the space and custodial service as needed for the proper conduct of elections upon application by the local board.

SPONSOR:

Brian Kemmet,
Governor's Political Liaison, Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Jessica Lea Curtis
Lt. Governor, McDaniel College

Lauren Payne
Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Shawn Jester
Delegation Chairperson, Salisbury University

A021 - 0809

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF SODOMY AND OTHER
SEXUAL ACTS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

FOR the purpose of repealing laws that are anachronistic, intrusive, and immoral.

BY repeal.

Article Criminal Law

Section 3-321, 2-322

Maryland Annotated Code (2008)

SECTION 1: BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the
Laws of Maryland read as follows:

§3-321.

~~A person who is convicted of sodomy is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment
not exceeding 10 years.~~

§3-322.

- (a) A person may not:
 - (1) take the sexual organ ~~of another or~~ of an animal in the person's mouth;
 - (2) place the person's sexual organ in the mouth ~~of another or~~ of an animal; or
 - (3) commit another unnatural or perverted sexual practice ~~with another or~~ with an animal.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.
- (c) A person who violates this section is subject to § 5-106(b) of the Courts Article.
- (d) An indictment for a violation of this section:
 - (1) is sufficient if it states that the defendant committed an unnatural and perverted sexual practice with ~~a person or~~ AN animal as applicable; but
 - (2) need not state the particular:
 - (i) unnatural or perverted sexual practice with which the defendant is charged; or
 - (ii) manner in which the defendant committed the unnatural or perverted sexual practice.

SPONSOR:

Andrew Horn, St. Mary's College of Maryland

CO-SPONSOR(S):

Lauren Payne, Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Andrea Richardson, Secretary, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Charles Onwuche, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Christopher Ingraham, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Amir Reda, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Brian Kemmet, Governor's Political Liaison, Salisbury University

A022 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING

Crimes – Harassment – Electronic Communication

FOR the purpose of altering an existing prohibition against using electronic mail with the intent to harass; prohibiting a person from making an electronic communication with the intent to harass a person or the person's child, sibling, spouse, parent, or dependent; defining certain terms; making certain confirming changes; and establishing certain penalties for harassment through electronic communication.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 3-805
Annotated Code of Maryland

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Law
§ 3-805

- (a) (1) In this section, ~~"electronic mail"~~ THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED
- (2) "ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION" means ~~the~~ A POSTING OR transmission of information or a communication by the use of a computer or other electronic means ~~that is sent to a person identified by a unique address and that is received by the person.~~
- (3) "HARASS" MEANS TO:
- (I) PLACE A PERSON IN REASONABLE APPREHENSION OF IMMEDIATE OR FUTURE BODILY HARM, SEXUAL ASSAULT, CONFINEMENT, OR RESTRAINT OF THE PERSON, OR THE PERSON'S CHILD, SIBLING, SPOUSE, PARENT, OR DEPENDENT; OR
- (II) FRIGHTEN, INTIMIDATE, OR CAUSE SUBSTANTIVE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
- (b) (1) A person may not ~~use~~ MAKE AN electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATION with the intent to harass: A PERSON, OR THE PERSON'S CHILD, SIBLING, SPOUSE, PARENT, OR DEPENDENT; OR
- (2) MAKE AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS, OR WHO PURPORTS TO BE A MINOR AND IN SO DOING AND WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE FRIGHTENS, INTIMIDATES, OR CAUSES

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS TO SUCH OTHER PERSON; OR

- (3) MAKE AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH ANOTHER PERSON IN VIOLATION OF AN ORDER OF PROTECTION, CONDITION OF PROBATION, PAROLE, PRETRIAL RELEASE, OR RELEASE ON BOND PENDING APPEAL AFTER HAVING RECEIVED ACTUAL NOTICE OF SUCH AN ORDER; OR
- (4) KNOWINGLY MAKE REPEATED UNWANTED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION TO ANOTHER PERSON

~~(1) one or more persons; or~~

~~(2) by sending lewd, lascivious, or obscene material.~~

(c) It is not a violation of this section for any of the following persons to provide information, facilities, or technical assistance to another who is authorized by federal or State law to intercept or provide electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATIONS or to conduct surveillance of electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATIONS, if a court order directs the person to provide the information, facilities, or technical assistance:

- (1) a provider of electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATIONS;
- (2) an officer, employee, agent, landlord, or custodian of a provider of electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATION SERVICES; or
- (3) a person specified in a court order directing the provision of information, facilities, or technical assistance to another who is authorized by federal or State law to intercept or provide electronic ~~mail~~ COMMUNICATIONS or to conduct surveillance of electronic mail.

(d) This section does not apply to a peaceable activity intended to express a political view or provide information to others.

(e) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding ~~4~~ 4 year YEARS or a fine not exceeding ~~\$500~~ \$10,000 or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

SPONSOR:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

CO-SPONSOR:

Andy Horn
St. Mary's College of Maryland

A024 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING
Plastic Bags – Standards for use

FOR the purpose of protecting the environment and Chesapeake Bay while stimulating “green jobs” in Maryland.

BY enacting
Article – Environment
Title §19-401: Plastic Bag Laws
Annotated Code of Maryland

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article—Business Regulation
§19-401

(a) DEFINITIONS

(i) “ASTM STANDARD” MEANS THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS (ASTM)’S INTERNATIONAL STANDARD D6400 FOR COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC, AS THAT STANDARD MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

(ii) “COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAG” MEANS A PLASTIC BAG

(1) MEETS THE CURRENT ASTM-STANDARD

SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPOSTABILITY, (2) IS CERTIFIED

AND LABELLED AS MEETING THE ASTM-STANDARD BY A

RECOGNIZED VERIFICATION ENTITY SUCH AS THE

BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCT INSTITUTE (3) CONFORMS TO

REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE RENEWABLE BASED PRODUCT CONTENT IS MAXIMIZED OVER TIME.

(iii) “CHECKOUT BAG” MEANS A CARRYOUT BAG THAT IS PROVIDED BY A STORE TO A CUSTOMER AT THE POINT OF SALE.

(iv) “PERSON” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, TRUST, FIRM, JOINT

STOCK COMPANY, CORPORATION, COOPERATIVE,

PARTNERSHIP, OR ASSOCIATION.

(v) “PHARMACY” MEANS A RETAIL USE WHERE THE

PROFESSION OF PHARMACY BY A PHARMACIST LICENSED

BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND WHERE PERSCRIPTIONS

(AND POSSIBLY OTHER MERCHANDISE) ARE OFFERED FOR

SALE, EXCLUDING SUCH RETAIL USES LOCATED INSIDE A HOSPITAL.

(vi) "RECYCLABLE" MEANS MATERIAL THAT CAN BE SORTED, CLEANSED, AND RECONSTITUTED USING MARYLAND'S AVAILABLE RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF USING THE ALTERED FORM IN THE MANUFACTURE OF A NEW PRODUCT. RECYCLING DOES NOT INCLUDE BURNING, INCINERATING, CONVERTING, OR OTHERWISE THERMALLY DESTROYING SOLID WASTE.

(vii) "RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG" MEANS A PAPER BAG THAT MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) CONTAINS NO OLD GROWTH FIBER, (2) IS 100% RECYCLABLE OVERALL AND CONTAINS A MINIMUM OF 40% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT.

(viii) "REUSEABLE BAG" MEANS A BAG WITH HANDLES THAT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED FOR MULTIPLE USE AND IS EITHER (1) MADE OF CLOTH OR OTHER MACHINE WASHABLE FABRIC, AND/OR (2) MADE OF DUABLE PLASTIC THAT IS AT LEAST 2.25 MILS THICK.

(ix) "STORE" MEANS A RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND THAT MEETS EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. IS A FULL-LINE, SELF-SERVICE SUPERMARKET WITH GROSS ANNUAL SALES OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000), OR MORE, AND WHICH SELLS A LINE OF DRY GROCERY, CANNED GOODS, OR NONFOOD ITEMS AND SOME PERISHABLE ITEMS.
2. IS A RETAIL PHARMACY WITH AT LEAST FIVE LOCATIONS UNDER THE SAME OWNERSHIP IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

(b) BAGS:

(i) ALL STORES SHALL PROVIDE ONLY THE FOLLOWING AS CHECKOUT BAGS TO CUSTOMERS; RECYCLEABLE PAPER BAGS, AND/OR COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAGS, AND/OR REUSEABLE BAGS.

(ii) VIOLATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION C.

(iii) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE READ TO PRECLUDE STORES FROM MAKING REUSEABLE BAGS AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO CUSTOMERS.

(c) PENALTIES:

(i) ANY PERSON IN VIOLATION OF §19-401 IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR, AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO (1) A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1000 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, (2) A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2000 FOR A SECOND VIOLATION WITHIN THE SAME YEAR, AND (3) A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$3000 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL VIOLATION.

SECTION 2: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act shall take effect one year after its effective date.

Sponsor:

McDaniel College Delegation

A025 - 0809

AN ACT CONCERNING

Health – General – Miscellaneous Health Provisions – Breast Feeding

FOR the purpose of establishing a restriction on breast feeding.

BY repealing, and reenacting, with amendments

Article- Miscellaneous Health Provisions

Section- 20-801

Annotated Code of Maryland (2009)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE

§20-801

~~(a)~~ A mother may breast-feed her child in any public or private location in which the mother and child are authorized to be ONLY IF THE MOTHER USES A NURSING COVER.

~~(b) A person may not restrict or limit the right of a mother to breast feed her child.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

SPONSOR

Lauren Thomas, McDaniel College Delegation

R001-0809

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN
UNIVERSITY BUDGETING PROCESSES**

WHEREAS: Access to higher education plays a crucial role in enabling upward social mobility; and,

WHEREAS: Over the past decade the cost of public four-year institutions rose 4.4% per year after inflation; and,

WHEREAS: Rapidly increasing costs (an estimated \$83,488 for an in-state student at the University of Maryland College Park for four years) are making higher education a greater burden for students and families and limiting social mobility; and,

WHEREAS: If the University System of Maryland (USM) fails to cut costs and increase efficiency, universities will face further prohibitive tuition increases and program cuts; and,

WHEREAS: Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a process of direct, voluntary, and universal democracy which provides the population with the opportunity to discuss budgetary issues and make relevant decisions. By participating in the budgeting process, stakeholders guide policy decisions to benefit more members of the community; and,

WHEREAS: PB has consistently proven to have a positive impact on communities. Originally developed in Porto Alegre, Brazil, PB has spread to over cities worldwide and has been praised by international organizations such as the UN, EU, and World Bank as a method of increasing accountability, transparency, efficiency, and output and as a key factor for fiscal growth and development; and,

WHEREAS: Applying PB to a segment of the USM budget would reduce the cost of students' education and prevent program cuts, while simultaneously providing education in the deliberative democratic process: by exercising decision-making through practical application students become better deliberators, learn about the budgeting process, and gain a sense of empowerment through direct democratic action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature recommend the Maryland General assembly to pass legislation that would implement participatory budgeting practices in the budgeting process at the USM and its member institutions.

SPONSOR: Lida Zlatic
University of Maryland, College Park

R007-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING EQUALITY FOR THE BLIND

WHEREAS: The District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals found in American Council of the Blind v. Paulson that paper money discriminates against the blind in violation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and,

WHEREAS: Paper money was found to be discriminatory because it lacks features that the blind can use to distinguish between denominations; and,

WHEREAS: Most proposals to comply with this ruling call for bills to come in different sizes and shapes; and,

WHEREAS: Changes of this sort would put an undue burden on merchants, vending machine operators and other third party businesses would have to make drastic and costly changes to accommodate changes in currency designs; and,

WHEREAS: It would cost over \$3.5 billion in order to retool or replace the over 7,000,000 food and beverage vending machines in the United States in order to accept different sized bills; and,

WHEREAS: One solution to bring paper money into compliance with the Circuit Court's decision is to change the security threads in American currency to make them heavier so they could be felt, and to vary the location and quantity to denote value; and,

WHEREAS: These heavy security threads would make paper money more easily distinguished by the blind, would prevent costly changes by third party businesses to accommodate changes in currency, and would add a level of security against counterfeiting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Department of the Treasury and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to adding and enhancing the security threads in American paper currency to aid the blind and visually impaired.

SPONSOR: Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

R017-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

- WHEREAS:** A college education is one of the most important accomplishments an individual can achieve; and,
- WHEREAS:** A college degree is an invaluable asset to someone attempting to further themselves personally and professionally; and,
- WHEREAS:** A large expense incurred while a student is attending college is the cost of their college textbooks; and,
- WHEREAS:** College textbooks are a critical component needed for students to achieve a college education; and,
- WHEREAS:** University bookstores charge high prices for their product; and,
- WHEREAS:** There are alternative places for students to purchase college textbooks at a cheaper rate than their university bookstore; and,
- WHEREAS:** The idea of competition is a cornerstone of America's economic system; and,
- WHEREAS:** Competition benefits the consumer in the long run.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland Legislature to pass a law requiring that public universities in the state of Maryland publish the full title, authors, edition numbers, and ISBN numbers of all college textbooks being sold in their bookstores and on their official campus websites.

SPONSOR:

Brian Kemmet
Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

Lauren Payne
DCP, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Paul Schuman
Tory Caucus Leader, University of Maryland Baltimore County

R018-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE CIVIC DUTIES

WHEREAS: Our great nation is dependent on civic participation mainly through the election 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.

Sponsor:

College of Notre Dame of Maryland Delegation

R019-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF DINING TRAY DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS: Tray usage in dining halls contributes to significant food and energy waste on college campuses nationwide; and,

WHEREAS: Students waste up to 16 tons of uneaten food a year because of using trays in dining halls;

WHEREAS: Tray usage adds to energy waste and it costs colleges 50 cents to wash each tray; and,

WHEREAS: College campuses have seen ever-increasing costs of tuition, room and board, and more sustainable food usage would reduce the impact of higher tuition; and,

WHEREAS: By eliminating tray usage, students become more aware of their carbon footprint and develop a deeper connection with their school and its environmental focus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature recommends that all public institutions of higher education in Maryland implement a trayless dining policy.

SPONSOR:

Lauren Payne, DCP, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Chris Lyford, St. Mary's College of Maryland

R020-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF LEGISLATORS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHEREAS: The national debt is currently 10.3 trillion dollars growing by an average rate of \$3.4 billion per day (according to the Concord Coalition); and,

WHEREAS: This downward trend negatively effects America's ability to trade against stronger currencies on the international marker; and,

WHEREAS: Equally divided, the debt works out to \$31,000 per American citizen; and,

WHEREAS: Legislators are elected often on the basis of their constituent service which generally leads to additional expensive programs and proposals; and,

WHEREAS: No incentive exists for those legislators to stop spending and actually work to reduce the national debt.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The United States Congress adopt a policy which would reduce the national debt to zero; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Each year that the Congress does not reduce the debt by one-fifteenth its size as of January 1 that year, the compensation normally received by senators and legislators paid out of the Federal Reserve will instead be used to pay down the national debt; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: After a 15 year period, no compensation be given to Congressmen and women until the debt is satisfied; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Any Congress thereafter may not be paid unless the budget is balanced by the end of each Congressional Session.

SPONSOR:

Courtney Nightengale, Co-DCP McDaniel College

R024-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONTINUED FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS: In recent months, the Federal Government has used taxpayer dollars to rescue financial institutions such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the American International Group (AIG); and,

WHEREAS: These bailouts have cost a total in excess of seven hundred billion dollars, all of which will have to be paid by the taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS: The current economic situation in the United States is such that, with people already defaulting on mortgages, the people will not be able to afford higher taxes that would be needed to finance more multi billion dollar bailouts; and,

WHEREAS: Many of these companies are in fiscal danger due to mismanagement of funds and making exceedingly risky business transactions that are beginning to backfire; and,

WHEREAS: The free market is a game of risk and reward; if the companies take risks that backfire, they should suffer the consequences; and,

WHEREAS: It is a function of the market for the strong and most responsible companies to survive; on the other hand, the weak and irresponsible companies will die and be replaced by newer, more responsible companies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Federal Reserve, President, and Congress; to refrain from using anymore tax payer funds to fund the bailout or government take over of trouble financial institutions.

SPONSOR:

Paul R. Schuman
UMBC

R025-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FAILURE OF CONGRESS TO ACT TO PREVENT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008

WHEREAS: While not being the full causal factor in the economic crisis of this year, Congress failed to act to reign in the dangerous sub prime lending being performed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; and,

WHEREAS: Barney Frank is the Chair of the House Financial Services Committee; and,

WHEREAS: Frank has resisted continued attempts to reign in Fannie and Freddie's subprime mortgage lending, continuing to say, through July 14th, 2008, that Fannie and Freddie “were essentially sound and in no danger of collapse, and promised action to improve their prospects”; and,

WHEREAS: Frank has received in excess of \$42,000 in campaign contributions from Fannie and Freddie since 1989; and,

WHEREAS: Frank's former partner Herb Moses served with Fannie Mae from 1991 to 1998, Frank pushed for reduced restriction on two-and three-family home mortgages in 1991, the year Moses was hired by Fannie, even though they were defaulting at two to five times the rate of single-family home defaults; and,

WHEREAS: This is a clear example of a conflict of interest, with Barney Frank putting his own special interests above what is best for the American people and the American economy; and,

WHEREAS: Chris Dodd is the number one recipient of campaign contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in all of Congress (\$133,000); and,

WHEREAS: Like Barney Frank, Chris Dodd maintained, throughout the crisis, that the fundamentals of Mae and Mac were essentially strong, and ignored numerous warning signs that the firms were in trouble; and,

WHEREAS: Due to his powerful position in Congress, Dodd also received extremely favorable, below market-rate mortgages on his homes from Countrywide Home Loans; and,

WHEREAS: Dodd has received a combined \$91,000 in campaign contributions from Countrywide and Bank of America (who purchased countrywide); and,

WHEREAS: In September 2008, Dodd introduced legislation that would provide relief to firms such as Countrywide, representing another conflict of interest; and,

WHEREAS: Frank and Dodd, along with all of the other Senators and Representatives who refused to act to prevent this crisis because of their links to special interests, have let the foundations of the American economy crumble while they served their special interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges President Bush and President Elect Obama, to launch a Department of Justice Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the Sub prime Mortgage calamity and press charges where it is appropriate.

SPONSOR:

Paul R. Schuman
UMBC

R026-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF THE DRIVER TRAINING AND LICENSING SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS: Maryland has a significantly higher automobile accident and fatality rate than Germany; and,

WHEREAS: Germany has higher speed limits and lower accident rates than the State of Maryland; and,

WHEREAS: Driver Education in the State of Maryland has a focus on the ability to park a car and do a three point turn, as well as the rules of the road; and,

WHEREAS: While it is important to have a knowledge of how to do all of these things, there is no education on car control; and,

WHEREAS: In Germany, there is a high emphasis placed on education in car control, which in turn leads to less accidents, even at higher speed; and,

WHEREAS: The German licensing system requires more experience (in both hours driven during and duration of) while on a Learner's Permit; and,

WHEREAS: This additional time and training ensures that Germans are more and better prepared for driving in all conditions that they could face (with natural exceptions); and,

WHEREAS: The number one function of any education and licensing system should be to produce safe and skilled drivers to ensure safety on the road.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass and Governor O'Malley to sign legislation that would implement a driver's licensing and education system in the state of Maryland, similar to the German Education and Licensing System.

SPONSOR:

Paul R. Schuman , Governor's Chief of Staff
UMBC

R029-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATE'S DRIVER'S EXAMINATION

WHEREAS: On average, applicants fail the test at least once before passing; and,

WHEREAS: After many failed attempts, such drivers are still allowed to drive on city streets and highways; and,

WHEREAS: An inability to pass such an exam multiple times presents a faulty trend in the potential driver; and,

WHEREAS: MVA states "If you fail to pass the road test, you can try again the following business day. You can do this up to three times. After that, you'll need to wait at least one week to try again" implying no restrictions on how many times a test can be taken and/or failed; and,

WHEREAS: Correcting the examination ethics will help lower this trend.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to reform MVA examination to require further schooling if an applicant fails the driver's test 3 times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: For the MVA to require at least a 3 month waiting period before an applicant may apply again after three repeated failures.

Sponsor:
Alex Galkin
Frostburg State University

R030-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT

WHEREAS: Current system in effect is outdated; and,

WHEREAS: Most of the US citizens do not even know how many feet are in a mile and,

WHEREAS: Compared to the alternative, SI, much more complicated and allows far more room for error; and,

WHEREAS: SI is based on naturally occurring phenomenon; and,

WHEREAS: English system is not naturally occurring which makes it hard to replicate making it an extremely malleable system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress to enact legislation converting the nation to International System of Measurement, Metric.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That SI be required to be taught in public schools as a primary system of measurement.

Sponsors:

Alex Galkin

Frostburg State University

R032-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR

WHEREAS: Charles County is attempting to build a multi-lane highway through the precious Mattawoman Creek watershed; and,

WHEREAS: The Maryland Department of the Environment will be deciding whether to issue permit for this highway as early as November 17th; and,

WHEREAS: This watershed is one of the most fragile and important to the Chesapeake Bay because of the amount of pollutants filtered out by its wetlands; and,

WHEREAS: Mattawoman Creek is already overburdened by run off from urban and developing areas; and,

WHEREAS: Mattawoman Creek is in the top 25% of all Maryland waterways for life-destroying nitrogen pollution loads; and,

WHEREAS: This road is a flagrant violation of Maryland's policy of smart growth, promoting growth in areas with existing infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS: This highway will directly destroy 7.18 acres of federally protected wetlands and 6.13 acres of State protected natural buffers; and,

WHEREAS: Charles County plans for at least 1113 residential, single unit houses to be built in low density developments after the completion of the CCC; and,

WHEREAS: This massive housing expansion will devastate the Mattawoman Creek watershed, by clearing thousands of additional acres of land; and,

WHEREAS: Allowing the construction of the CCC will not only further wreck our fragile environment, but is directly contradictory to Maryland's stated policies of stewardship for the Chesapeake Bay and our environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature demands that the Maryland Department of the Environment deny Charles County permits to destroy the Mattawoman Creek watershed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the State of Maryland to protect the Mattawoman Creek watershed, especially its wetlands and natural buffers.

Sponsors:

Andrea P. Thomson, VDCP UMBC
Scott T. Besore, Salisbury University.

R033-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GRANTING THE PRESIDENT LINE ITEM VETO POWER

WHEREAS: Federal Legislation is multi-issued often including appropriations separate from the bill's stated purpose; and,

WHEREAS: Congress did grant Line Item Veto Power to President Clinton when it passed the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 in order to reduce government waste; and,

WHEREAS: The Line Item Veto Act of 1996 was deemed unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court; and,

WHEREAS: The current National Debt is over \$10 trillion and growing; and,

WHEREAS: Pork barrel projects are able to pass through Congress without consideration under the cover of vital and important legislation; and,

WHEREAS: It is imperative to reduce the number of special interest and pork barrel projects paid for by national tax payers; and,

WHEREAS: Line Item Veto power would give the President the ability to cut waste out of important bills; and,

WHEREAS: A President may agree with important legislation, but cannot sign it into law based on particular elements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States to pass an Amendment to the Constitution granting the President Line Item Veto power.

SPONSORS:

Gregory S. Miller, Co-DCP McDaniel College

Courtney Nightengale, Co-DCP McDaniel College

R035 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STRATEGIC PLACEMENT OF RECYCLING BINS

WHEREAS: recycling is a cost effective way to conserve materials, reduce carbon emissions, extend the lifespan of landfills and much more; and,

WHEREAS: in many spaces used by the public, including malls, restaurants, and colleges, trash often are more numerous than recycling bins and have more convenient locations ; and,

WHEREAS: many recycling bins are overlooked or mistaken for trash cans due to a bad location ; and,

WHEREAS: many people will throw recyclables in the trash if a recycling bin is not in a conspicuous or convenient location ; and,

WHEREAS: rearranging recycling bins, and adding new ones as necessary, would not be an onerous process if handled correctly ; and,

WHEREAS: Doing more to encourage people to recycle in public would raise awareness and indirectly encourage people to recycle more at home and at work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Maryland Student Legislature encourages the Maryland general assembly to consider a bill that would require organizations in charge of places used by the public to rearrange their existing recycling bins and add new ones as necessary to decrease the amount of recyclables that are thrown away.

SPONSOR(S):

Neal Graves, McDaniel College

R036 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ABOLISHMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS: There has been a moratorium on all executions in the state of Maryland since 2006 due to flaws with the execution manual; and,

WHEREAS: The eighth amendment to the United States bans all forms of cruel and unusual punishment; and,

WHEREAS: Lethal injection, the form of capital used in Maryland, often causes the victims immense amounts of pain and suffering due to need to find suitable veins and incorrect application of the three drug cocktail; and,

WHEREAS: An editorial in the New York Herald Tribune referred to executions as “a premeditated, unnecessary killing is a moral evil by whomever done”; and,

WHEREAS: Had it not been for the fervent actions of outside sources, 129 wrongfully convicted inmates could have been murdered in the United States, losing their lives for a crime they did not commit; and,

WHEREAS: Executions are an irreversible punishment; and,

WHEREAS: Death penalty cases on average cost \$1,000,000 more than murder trials not involving the potential for capital punishment; and,

WHEREAS: Capital punishment does nothing to deter criminals from murdering; and,

WHEREAS: Society can be amply protected from dangerous criminals if convicted murderers are sentenced to life imprisonment and,

WHEREAS: Life without parole convictions save the state millions of dollars per inmate due to the expensive appeals process, and;

WHEREAS: The life without parole conviction can help the victim’s family begin to finish the grieving process and allow them to move along with their lives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to become the thirteenth state in the nation to abolish capital punishment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to commute all death sentences to sentences of life in prison.

SPONSORS:

Matt Emery, Speaker of the Assembly, McDaniel College
Sarah Martin, McDaniel College

R037 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF HAITI IN THE DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Haiti is ineligible to participate in the United States' 2009 Diversity Visa Program due to increased numbers of immigrants in recent years; and,

WHEREAS: Haiti is the poorest nation in the world according to the CIA World Factbook; and,

WHEREAS: A recent survey stated that Haitian citizens were subject to the fifteenth worst quality of life in the world, and the worst in the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS: All of the other countries with lower quality of life indexes from this are included in the United States' 2009 Diversity Visa Program; and,

WHEREAS: In 2008 Hurricane season, Haiti has been hit by four destructive hurricanes, worsening their already poor standard of living; and,

WHEREAS: As a result of this visa shortage, more Haitians will try to escape the oppression found in their homeland through illegal means.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress to allot 2,000 Diversity Visas for residents of Haiti to escape the oppression and poor quality of life in Haiti.

SPONSOR:

Matt Emery, Speaker of the Assembly, McDaniel College

R038 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO OF CUBA

WHEREAS: Since 1962 the United States has enforced a economical, commercial, and financial embargo against the nation of Cuba, making it the longest trade embargo of modern times; and,

WHEREAS: The embargo only has resulted in a negative effect for both the United States and Cuba, including losses of United States businesses in excess of \$1.2 billion per annum in exports; and,

WHEREAS: After the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, Cuba has been unable to import many goods, causing it's status as a Third World Nation to worsen; and,

WHEREAS: Due to the embargo, many immigrants from Cuba can not return to their homeland to visit family on a regular basis, if at all, due to the effects of the embargo; and,

WHEREAS: The United States does not currently have any similar legislation enacting embargos with other Communist nations such as Vietnam and China; and,

WHEREAS: The United Nations has voted every year since 1991 to condemn the United States embargo on Cuba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress to repeal The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 in order to end long standing embargo of Cuba, allowing for free trade and open travel between the two nations.

SPONSORS:

Matt Emery, Speaker of the Assembly, McDaniel College

R039 - 0809

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SPEED CAMERAS**

WHEREAS: Under current Maryland Law, a registered owner of a vehicle caught exceeding the speed limit by a traffic enforcement camera is fined automatically via mail; and,

WHEREAS: Speed cameras violate Article 21 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights, as well as amendments 4, 5, 6 and 14 of the United States Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges the state of Maryland to repeal House Bill 443, as well as disable and remove all operational speed cameras.

SPONSOR:

Lindsey Thomas
The College of Notre Dame

CO-SPONSOR:

Brian Kemmet
Salisbury University

R041 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF SEX EDUCATION CURRICULA

WHEREAS: Current sex education curricula, regardless of basis, do not generally teach youths the consequences of sexual activity, drawing criticism from members of both political parties; and,

WHEREAS: The designed biological outcome of sexual intercourse is reproduction; and,

WHEREAS: Even those courses which discuss Sexually Transmitted Diseases as a consequence of sexual activity fail to adequately discuss—or often even mention—the requirements of caring for a child; and,

WHEREAS: Teen pregnancy rates are both reflective of, and exacerbating to, a situation in which young mothers and fathers are ill-prepared to handle; and,

WHEREAS: Programs granting shelter to babies abandoned by teen mothers are often overwhelmed by unanticipated volume, with Nebraska's program only one example; and,

WHEREAS: Because minor teens, being themselves legal dependents, are inherently unprepared to care for children, creating a massive drain on both Federal and State government resources and vastly decreasing career opportunities and prospects for teens at a young age; and

WHEREAS: Teens need to be prepared to handle the consequences of their actions; and,

WHEREAS: Providing parenting classes will demonstrate to teens the enormity of the responsibility involved in raising a child, creating more responsible parents and individuals who will choose to wait until they are financially and emotionally ready to have children; and,

WHEREAS: Children born into stable families are far less likely to engage in criminal behavior, drugs, addictions, and are far more likely to complete an education; and,

WHEREAS: Lowering teen pregnancy and crime rates and increasing education levels are all integral to ending poverty in the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation requiring that parenting classes be a mandatory part of the public High School sex education curriculum.

SPONSORS:

Meghan Sherman, McDaniel College
Stuart M. Clarke, McDaniel College

R045-0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INNER PURPLE LINE

WHEREAS: Maryland commuters and residents are in need of relief from Capital Beltway congestion.

WHEREAS: The establishment of a Purple Line with stops in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Langley Park, College Park, New Carrollton, and the University of Maryland will connect four already existing Metro lines and three MARC lines.

WHEREAS: The Purple Line will give commuters an opportunity to avoid the most heavily congested portion of the beltway by serving approximately 68,000 individuals each day.

WHEREAS: The Purple Line will lessen the pollution to the air that is contributed by automobiles and create more jobs in this difficult economic time.

WHEREAS: The Purple Line has been endorsed by The Washington Post, the Montgomery County Council, the Prince George's County Council, Governor O'Malley, and University of Maryland student leaders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature supports the construction of a light rail Inner Purple Line to the Metrorail System.

SPONSOR:

Lauren Payne, Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Sarah Hanley, Vice Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Andrea Richardson, Secretary, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Charles Onwuche, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Amir Reda, St. Mary's College of Maryland

CO-SPONSOR(S):

Brian Kemmet, Governor's Political Liaison, Salisbury University

R046 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MORALE OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS: Members of the United States Military put their lives in danger on a daily basis; and,

WHEREAS: The compensation given to the members of the military is inadequate for the important job they do; and,

WHEREAS: A small but important pleasure for these men and women is receiving a simple letter from home and responding to it; and,

WHEREAS: Obtaining stamps in a certain parts of the world can be an unnecessary burden to place on the defenders of America's freedoms; and,

WHEREAS: The cost of stamps continues to go up; and,

WHEREAS: There are frequent grassroots movements to provide stamps for military personnel so they respond to their loved ones; and,

WHEREAS: Communication with home has numerous psychological benefits; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress and the Department of Defense to create and institute a policy providing all American military personnel on active duty three outgoing letters a week exempt from postage.

SPONSOR:

Brian Kemmet
Governor's Political Liaison, Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

Lindsey Thomas
College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Jessica Lea Curtis
Lieutenant Governor, McDaniel College

Lauren Payne
DCP, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Andrea Richardson
Secretary, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Paul Schuman
Tory Caucus Leader, University of Maryland Baltimore County

Kyle Elzey
Salisbury University

Matt Dungan-Abney
McDaniel College

R047 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MAKING TEXTBOOKS MORE AFFORDABLE

WHEREAS: A college education is one of the most important accomplishments an individual can achieve; and,

WHEREAS: A college degree is an invaluable asset to someone attempting to further themselves personally and professionally; and,

WHEREAS: A large expense incurred while a student is attending college is the cost of their college textbooks; and,

WHEREAS: College textbooks are a critical component needed for students to achieve a college education; and,

WHEREAS: Maryland sales tax helps increase the total cost of college textbooks; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland Comptroller's office to pass a regulation excluding college text books purchased from college bookstores from the Maryland sales tax.

SPONSOR:

Brian Kemmet
Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

Lauren Payne
DCP, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Matt Dungan-Abney
McDaniel College

R050 - 0809

A Resolution Concerning Maryland Route 200

Whereas: The State of Maryland is facing a massive budget shortfall; and,

Whereas: The Governor and General Assembly have both committed to reducing government spending to help address this shortfall; and,

Whereas: The State of Maryland has nearly 2.4 billion dollars allocated for the construction of MD 200, the Inter-County Connector; and,

Whereas: This is more money than the Maryland Budget is short; and,

Whereas: This proposed toll road has not yet had any significant construction; and,

Whereas: This road has met with almost universal opposition from local residents, environmental groups, and other concerned citizens; and,

Whereas: The Prince George's County Counsel has twice condemned the construction of the Inter-County Connector in County Counsel resolutions; and,

Whereas: The ICC is projected to charge a \$0.17 per mile toll, for a total of \$6 round trip; and,

Whereas: This would cost the typical commuter almost \$1600 annually, discouraging all but the most wealthy from using MD 200 on a routine basis; and,

Whereas: Funding for constructing the ICC could be restored at a time when Maryland is in a better economic position; and,

Whereas: Maryland is best served by postponing construction of Maryland Route 200, and reallocating the funding to other areas of greater need in the budget.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland State Government to divert all funding for construction of Maryland Route 200 into the general fund and the highway fund of the 2009 state budget.

Be it further resolved: That the land already acquired for the Inter County Connector be preserved as a greenway for the time being.

Sponsor:

Scott Thomas Besore, Salisbury University Delegation Secretary

R051 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AQUACULTURE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

WHEREAS: Annual oyster harvests, destroyed by disease, poor water quality and overharvesting, hover at about 1 percent of their historic highs in the early 20th century, and;

WHEREAS: Oysters purify the Chesapeake Bay as they filter the water for their food, and could once clean a volume of water equal to that of the entire Bay in a week, while today it would take the remaining Bay oysters more than a year, and;

WHEREAS: This filtering is the best natural check on pollution and silt levels in the Chesapeake Bay; and,

WHEREAS: The decimation of the oyster population has led to diminished water quality throughout the Bay; and,

WHEREAS: Poor water quality has led to huge reductions in the populations of blue crabs, rockfish, and shad, among other important species; and,

WHEREAS: This reduced water quality and these diminished species have cost hundreds of watermen their livelihoods; and,

WHEREAS: These watermen are perfect for employment in the aquaculture industry; and,

WHEREAS: Oyster aquaculture has been employed for many years in Europe, Asia, and Australia, and the west coast of the United States to successfully revive decimated oyster population, and;

WHEREAS: Aquaculture is becoming an important industry in Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore; and,

WHEREAS: The mainstay of this industry is the growing of oyster beds on the floor of Maryland's water ways; and,

WHEREAS: This industry has major economic potential as well as positive environmental impact; and,

WHEREAS: The largest deterrent to this industry is the difficult process of leasing these beds and insufficient state subsidy support; and,

WHEREAS: Reforming the leasing process will encourage more investment in the aquaculture industry; and,

WHEREAS: Increasing state support for aquaculture will help promote continued growth of the industry; and,

WHEREAS: This is a significant opportunity for Maryland to not only increase Maryland's

industrial base, but also to dramatically improve the Chesapeake Bay's health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland State Government should reform the outdated and difficult process to lease water beds for aquaculture purposes and increase subsidies to this industry.

Sponsor:

Scott Thomas Besore, Salisbury University Delegation Secretary
Andrea Thomson, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, VDCP

R055 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING IMMIGRANT MILITARY SERVICE

WHEREAS: All legal immigrants are in the States for a valid reason, and;

WHEREAS: There are not any more patriotic means than volunteering to put own life at risk for a nation, and;

WHEREAS: Currently the only benefit to serving the military as an immigrant is availability to bypass residency requirements in order to be naturalized, and;

WHEREAS: Such residency requirements only mean for an applicant to have spent a total of 5 years as a permanent resident in the States, and;

WHEREAS: Those without a green card may not serve in the military today.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress to enact a law allowing pending Green Card applicants to serve the US Military branches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such immigrants, after 3 years of consecutive service, be granted a Green Card.

SPONSOR:
Frostburg State University

R058 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE'S OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS: The Senate has just recently voted to pass the economic stimulus package to create jobs and secure the financial stability of the United States; and,

WHEREAS: This does not create any jobs and it more than likely does not do enough to stimulate the economy to outweigh the fact that this provision spends almost one quarter of a billion dollars; and,

WHEREAS: The stimulus package also supposedly stimulates the economy by spending another quarter of a million dollars to furnish the new Headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security; and,

WHEREAS: These are only two of the vast amounts of pork that were put into this bill to buy off votes, which also grants tax cuts to people who have not paid taxes, spends almost a trillion dollars to buy cars for the federal government and is overall wasteful, instead of saving the economy it adds one trillion dollars of debt to an already large debt and instead of helping the economy, will cause increased inflation as the value of the dollar tries to increase as the recession comes to an end.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress not to craft nor pass, and the President not to sign, any more stimulus packages so as to not further risk the long term prosperity of the American economy in a haste to help it in the present.

SPONSOR:

Paul R. Schuman
Governor's Chief of Staff, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly, Tory Caucus Leader
University of Maryland Baltimore Country

R062 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES FORMULA ONE GRAND PRIX

WHEREAS: Following the 2007 United States Grand Prix the Formula One World Championship has not returned to the United States; and,

WHEREAS: The arrangement ended as a result of disputes with Formula One rights holder Bernie Ecclestone and Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner Tony George; and,

WHEREAS: The members of FOTA (Formula One Teams Association) have all expressed the need to have access to the market of the United States following the end of the agreement between the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Formula One; and,

WHEREAS: The formation of the USF1 Team by Peter Windsor and Ken Anderson will increase American interest in an already popular form of motorsports in America and the most popular form of motorsports in the world; and,

WHEREAS: While there are excellent racing facilities in areas such as Watkins Glenn, New York and Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, these areas are not seen as being sufficient to support the cosmopolitan nature of the Formula One atmosphere; and,

WHEREAS: Annapolis has many bars, restaurants, accommodations, as well as the nightlife and atmosphere which Formula One looks for; and,

WHEREAS: The Baltimore Washington Metropolitan Area has the infrastructure needed to accommodate the the hundreds of thousands of fans that will travel to Maryland from within the United States and abroad; and,

WHEREAS: The cost of creating a temporary street circuit would mandate some road improvements and the use of temporary barriers which would create jobs and cost far less than creating a full road course from scratch; and,

WHEREAS: A Formula One weekend brings in hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy; and,

WHEREAS: New aerodynamic regulations for the 2009 Season has made the cars even closer in performance, will create closer racing and more overtaking, and will make the sport even more popular and exciting; and,

WHEREAS: Herman Tilke has designed the Valencia Street Circuit and the Singapore Street Circuit, both of which are very popular and are currently in use on the Formula One calendar; and,

WHEREAS: Hosting a Formula One Grand Prix would create temporary jobs in an ailing economy where any job, however brief, is needed; and,

WHEREAS: Hosting a Formula One Grand Prix would pump hundreds of millions of dollars into an ailing economy which needs all of the funding it can raise, and would put Annapolis on the map as a truly international city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland Stadium Authority to approach Bernie Ecclestone and the Formula One Teams Association to determine the interest and feasibility of holding the United States Grand Prix on a temporary street circuit in the city of Annapolis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That if there is interest in holding the United States Grand Prix in Annapolis, the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland Stadium Authority to approach Herman Tilke about designing the temporary street circuit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the first year that this event could take place is 2010.

SPONSOR:

Paul R. Schuman
Governor's Chief of Staff
University of Maryland Baltimore County

R063 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING PUBLIC MEDICAL RESEARCH SPENDING IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS: The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine is the branch of the National Institutes of Health that researches complementary medicine, which is used together with conventional medicine, and alternative medicine, which is used in place of conventional medicine; and,

WHEREAS: However, there is little evidence that either “complementary” or “alternative” medicine are more effective in promoting health than “conventional” medicine; and,

WHEREAS: NCCAM has been criticized for focusing on a “ideological” approach to medicine, instead of a scientific approach; and,

WHEREAS: Funding for NCCAM has ballooned from \$2.0 million in the 1992 to \$121.6 million in 2008; and,

WHEREAS: Counting money from the 2009 Budget and the stimulus package, NCAAM will be receiving an additional \$31 million in funding this year; and,

WHEREAS: Much of the research NCCAM funds does research in the study of natural products and diets, which are not inherently “alternative,” and should require no special agency to fund; and,

WHEREAS: In the history of NCCAM, not a single research project has found a single alternative method to be either effective or ineffective; and,

WHEREAS: Funding research for projects with dubious connections to science and medicine that are certain to come back with unclear results is a waste of public funds in these extremely tight economic times; and,

WHEREAS: Support for defunding NCAAM has come from many prominent individuals, including Dr. Steven Salzberg, the Director of the Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States Congress to defund the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and redirect the agency’s funding to other parts of the National Institutes of Health.

SPONSOR:

Shawn Jester
DCP, Salisbury University

R067 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE INTEGRITY OF DUE PROCESS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS: Confessions are often the most convincing evidence against defendants in all types of cases; and,

WHEREAS: While many confessions are video-taped, the interrogation leading up the confession is often absent from record; and,

WHEREAS: Many criminals are released each year because the integrity of the interrogation process is vulnerable to reasonable doubt; and,

WHEREAS: The rights of suspects and the safety of the public can and will be enhanced through the use of cheapening technology.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges each police station in Maryland to implement a digital recording system in at least one interrogation room; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The entirety of every interrogation of a suspect in a felony case must be recorded; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Anyone in custody of any Maryland police officer may request their interrogation or interview be recorded and archived until such time as the records are no longer necessary; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: In order to cover the low cost of implementation, the Maryland Student Legislature recommends a fee increase of \$3 per Conceal and Carry License Application.

Sponsors:

Courtney Nightengale, McDaniel College

R071 - 0809

A Resolution Concerning the Preservation of Open Land on the Eastern Shore

WHEREAS: The Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary in Bozman, Maryland is a 950 acre tract of unspoiled natural beauty; and,

WHEREAS: This area of land is a haven for animals, and is absolutely teeming with wildlife; and,

WHEREAS: The current financial crunch has left the Audubon Society unable to maintain this wonderful preserve; and,

WHEREAS: The setting of this preserve, between three significant tributaries of the Choptank River, provides unrivaled water access; and,

WHEREAS: This setting also makes the preserve a prime candidate for residential development; and,

WHEREAS: Maryland has a fund dedicated to preserving open land from development; and,

WHEREAS: The Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary is perfect for Project Open Space protection; and,

WHEREAS: Preserving the Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary as a state park would enhance the lives of all Marylanders; and,

WHEREAS: Only 6 of Maryland's 45 State Parks are on the Eastern Shore; and,

WHEREAS: The Sanctuary's preservation would add to this meager total; and,

WHEREAS: The State has the money allocated to preserve this land, and it is the best example so far of what the Project Open Space was designed to protect; and,

WHEREAS: There is no excuse for Maryland to allow this environmental gem to be destroyed by greedy and destructive developers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland State Government must preserve the Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary as a Maryland State Park using available Project Open Space funds.

Sponsor:

Scott Thomas Besore, Salisbury University Delegation Secretary

R072 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS IN THE US

WHEREAS: The general consensus among the scientific community is that carbon emissions do in fact harm the environment; and,

WHEREAS: Personally owned automobiles are among the largest sources of said emissions; and

WHEREAS: The lax standards on fuel efficiency in America have increased our dependence on foreign oil, primarily from the Middle East; and,

WHEREAS: Other industrialized nations/supranational entities (Japan and the European Union) have been able to raise their standards to an average 40-45 mpg in fuel efficiency, while in the United States cars on average get only 26.7 mpg (highway); and,

WHEREAS: The Obama administration's plan to raise fuel efficiency standards to 27.3 mpg does not go far enough to close this gap and help lead the way for more energy efficient future; and,

WHEREAS: The increasing overall price of oil and the yearly spikes in oil prices during the summer months put an undue strain on working and middle class consumers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature recommends that the Federal fuel efficiency standards for new cars set to take effect as of 2011 be raised to 35 mpg.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That companies that cannot or will not adapt to these new standards will be subject to a "petroleum gluttony" tax, providing said companies an incentive to comply with new standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That every four years the fuel efficiency standards be reconsidered by the House of Representatives.

SPONSERS:

Joe Guida
McDaniel College

R078 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MARYLAND CITIZENS

WHEREAS: Blood is a necessity for life; and,

WHEREAS: There is a shortage of blood at hospitals and blood banks; and,

WHEREAS: The state providing an incentive for donating blood will increase the amount of blood that can be given to patients in need.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Comptrollers office to enact a tax credit in the amount of \$25 for any citizen who donates blood, for each instance such a citizen donates blood.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges this tax credit to be capped at a maximum of three credits per year.

SPONSORS:

Brian Kemmet
Governor's Political Liaison
Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Jessica Lea Curtis
Lt. Governor
McDaniel College

Christopher Ingraham
St. Mary's College of Maryland

Andrew Horn
St. Mary's College of Maryland

R081 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION IN MARYLAND

WHEREAS: Congestion on Maryland roads has gotten steadily worse over the years; and,

WHEREAS: Many travelers wish to travel to Southern Maryland for various reasons; and,

WHEREAS: Reducing transit time for travelers would have a positive benefit for both the environment and the economy; and,

WHEREAS: A ferry would allow people to see more of the great state of Maryland.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation appropriating funds for the creation of a Lower Shore-Southern Maryland ferry.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges that this ferry be constructed with money given to the state of Maryland from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

SPONSORS:

Brian Kemmet,
Governor's Political Liaison, Environmental Matters Committee Chairman, Salisbury University

CO-SPONSORS:

Lauren Payne
Delegation Chairperson
St. Mary's College of Maryland

Andrew Horn, SMCM
St. Mary's College of Maryland

Jessica Lea Curtis
Lt. Governor
McDaniel College

R085 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ADULT LITERACY IN MARYLAND

WHEREAS: A 2003 study by the National Assessment of Adult Literacy has recorded the greatest decline in general adult literacy in recent history; and,

WHEREAS: The study found that eleven million adults in the United States are functionally illiterate, and;

WHEREAS: Compared to the average American, a low literate spends 4 times as much on health care, generating \$73 billion per year of unnecessary health care expenses attributable to poor literacy due to fewer preventative regular doctors visits and more expensive visits to the emergency room; and,

WHEREAS: 2/3 to 3/4 of the adults who receive public assistance function at the bottom two levels of literacy; and,

WHEREAS: Many of those who receive welfare, food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and Medicaid are functionally illiterate adults thus making the private issue of illiteracy a public cost paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS: In selecting a location for a North American factory, Toyota chose Canada rather than the United States, citing America's low literacy rates as factor in their decision; and,

WHEREAS: The previous presidential administration cut Adult Literacy funding by 63%; and,

WHEREAS: Adult Literacy programs receive approximately 80% of their funding from the government, this cut has been a large cut in the budgets of these programs; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of funding received by Adult Literacy Programs have also led to high turnover rates amongst teachers and administrators working in this field creating organizational and administrative problems in Adult Literacy centers; and,

WHEREAS: Children who are most affected by education legislation such as No Child Left Behind, are also the ones whose parents are less likely to have an education; and,

WHEREAS: These parents would also benefit greatly from Adult Literacy programs; and,

WHEREAS: We must strengthen adult education in the state of Maryland, as the children of functionally illiterates are most likely to fail in school due to their parent's inability to aid them in their educational pursuits despite the existence of programs such as No Child Left Behind.

THEREFORE FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the federal government to increase funding towards Maryland Adult Literacy programs allowing these programs to gain the funds necessary to expand and serve more low literates.

SPONSOR:

Andrea Thomson
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, VDCP

R087 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

WHEREAS: Many high school students in Maryland take foreign language courses to prepare for the language proficiency requirements in college; and,

WHEREAS: Foreign language proficiency generally takes six to eight years of formal study which is more extensive than four years that high school allows; and,

WHEREAS: Numerous developmental psychology experts believe children have a sensitive period early in life during which the ability for language development is strongest; and,

WHEREAS: Children who learn a language before the age of ten are more likely to reach proficiency; and,

WHEREAS: Students who study foreign language at a young age often have higher scores on standardized tests and are found to have more advanced thinking skills, memory abilities, problem solving abilities, and listening skills; and,

WHEREAS: Lawmakers in Virginia have recognized the benefit of foreign language instruction to elementary school students as Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.) asked for \$200,000 from the federal government in 2006 to fund programs in Fairfax; and,

WHEREAS: Many industrialized countries in Europe and Asia, such as Germany and Italy, currently begin foreign language instruction during elementary school.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature encourages the addition of a foreign language component to public elementary and middle school curriculums in Maryland.

SPONSOR:

Lauren Payne, Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Andrea Richardson, Secretary, St. Mary's College of Maryland

CO-SPONSOR(S):

Brian Kemmet, Governor's Political Liaison, Salisbury University
Raissa Noubissie, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Andrew Horn, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Christopher Ingraham, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Emily Gershon, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Thomas Capone, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Amir Reda, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Charles Onwuche, St. Mary's College of Maryland

R095 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING DEFORESTATION ALONG THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

WHEREAS: A riparian (waterside forest buffer) not only provides a habitat for wildlife but also protects against erosion and regulates water temperature; and,

WHEREAS: Well-maintained riparians allow buffers to naturally absorb nutrients and sediments improving water quality and clarity; and,

WHEREAS: The largest threat to the Chesapeake Bay is the excess of nutrients, specifically phosphorus and nitrogen caused from runoff from both animal and human waste; and,

WHEREAS: Better water quality allows for the improvement of growth in not only in physical size of wildlife, but also the population of wildlife; and,

WHEREAS: The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, approximately 200 miles long and up to 30 miles wide and still it only takes 35 feet of riparian along it's coast to effectively protect it's waters; and,

WHEREAS: The improvement of the Chesapeake Bay's waters will directly improve the quality of life within it's waters, which will directly improve the lives of people who live in the states surrounding it's waters, providing a local food source that is high in nutrition; and,

WHEREAS: Jobs will be created that are necessary for not only fishing the Chesapeake Bay's improved waters but also, actively restoring a riparian along the Chesapeake Bay's coast

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the expansion of the proposed 50,000 mile riparian restoration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A ban be placed on the deforestation of land anywhere within 50 feet of the Chesapeake Bay's coast line.

SPONSOR:

Bryan Compher, McDaniel College

R102 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING POLICE OFFICER UNIFORMS AND ATIRE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS: Police uniform hats are expensive and cost local law enforcement agencies and the state of Maryland thousands of dollars per year; and,

WHEREAS: Many Police officers choose to wear sunglasses to shield their eyes from the sun in addition to the hats, therefore defeating the main purpose of a hat; and,

WHEREAS: Uniform hats are not required to be worn inside a patrol vehicle, therefore doing nothing to protect an officer's eyes during vehicle patrol; and,

WHEREAS: The ridiculous nature and styling of the hats reduces police credibility in the eyes of the public, contributing to an increased crime rate and less effective patrols; and,

WHEREAS: Police officers are often privately subjected to ridicule because of their hats; and,

WHEREAS: Hats, as part of the proper officer uniform, are a hassle to police officers and produce and undue burden on them; and,

WHEREAS: Uniform hats may become dislodged during an altercation or on a windy day, resulting in the possible destruction of the hat and the need to buy new hats.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland State Legislature to legislation mandating the elimination of hats, as part of a Police officer uniform, throughout the state of Maryland.

Sponsor:

Jacob Lopes, McDaniel College

R110 - 0809

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF MARYLAND FOSTER CARE CHILDREN

WHEREAS: It is believed that on the national level, about half of all the children in the foster care system change schools a minimum of four times after beginning their formal education; and,

WHEREAS: Foster children not only change schools, but change families; and,

WHEREAS: Each time a foster child changes families there is a high probability they will be in a different school district causing the changing of schools; and,

WHEREAS: In Maryland, 34% of the 10,867 children in foster care experience three or more foster care placements; and,

WHEREAS: Because of their many school placements, it is difficult for foster children to become involved in extracurricular activities; and,

WHEREAS: Many foster children are unable to maintain friendships due to constant changing of schools while friendships help them to cope after losing parents and siblings; and,

WHEREAS: It takes a child 4 to 6 months to recover academically from the disruption of changing schools; and,

WHEREAS: Students in foster care repeated a grade twice as often as other students; and,

WHEREAS: Less than 50% of kids aging out of foster care graduate from high school or get a GED compared to 85% of the general population; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature recommends, provided transportation arrangements have been made, that foster care children remain in the one school district decided upon by their social worker.

SPONSOR:

Andrea Richardson, Secretary, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Lauren Payne, Delegation Chairperson, St. Mary's College of Maryland

CO-SPONSOR(S):

Andrew Horn, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Charles Onwuche, St. Mary's College of Maryland

SR003 - 0809

A SIMPLE RESOLUTION CONCERNING MARYLAND'S EDUCATORS

WHEREAS: Education Week magazine ranked Maryland public schools the best in the country in 2008; and,

WHEREAS: Educators work tirelessly to further the knowledge, abilities, and growth of the students in their charge; and,

WHEREAS: Maryland's educators are a source of pride for all residents of the great state of Maryland.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature thanks Maryland's educators for their dedication to the students of the state and congratulates them for this outstanding achievement.

SPONSOR:

Salisbury University Delegation

CO-SPONSORS

Lauren Payne
DCP, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Lindsey Thomas
College of Notre Dame

Matt Dungan-Abney
McDaniel College

SR020 - 0809

A SIMPLE RESOLUTION CONCERNING SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD

WHEREAS: Senator Russ Feingold, a Rhodes scholar, has faithfully served the people of Wisconsin for one score and six years; and,

WHEREAS: Senator Feingold was the only Senator to vote against both the PATRIOT Act and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, on the grounds that Congress should not pass a bill its members have not read; and,

WHEREAS: Senator Feingold has returned the entirety of the raises he has received in Congress, over \$50,000 per annum, to the United States Treasury Department; and,

WHEREAS: Senator Feingold has returned over \$250,000 per Senate term in gifts from lobbyists, while paying two home mortgages and driving a car manufactured in 1998; and,

WHEREAS: Senator Feingold remains the staunchest supporter of ethics and fiscal responsibility in Congress, while retaining a truly bipartisan record.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature wishes to recognize Senator Russ Feingold for his refreshing integrity and leadership despite an era of political corruption, and thank him for his service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That other members of Congress should consider as a role model the character and ethics of Senator Russ Feingold.

Sponsors:

Stuart M. Clarke, McDaniel College
Sarah Martin, McDaniel College