

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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By: **Senators Frosh, Benson, Conway, Currie, Dyson, Gladden, Jones–Rodwell, Kelley, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Muse, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Rescission of Maryland’s Ratification of the Corwin Amendment to the**  
3 **United States Constitution**

4 FOR the purpose of rescinding Maryland’s ratification of the Corwin Amendment to  
5 the United States Constitution.

6 WHEREAS, On February 27, 1861, in an attempt to avert the secession of  
7 Southern states, United States Representative Thomas Corwin of Ohio proposed an  
8 amendment to the United States Constitution that would prohibit the United States  
9 Constitution from being amended in a manner that authorizes Congress to abolish or  
10 interfere with the states’ domestic institutions, including slavery; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 2, 1861, the Corwin Amendment passed the United  
12 States Congress and was submitted to the states for ratification; and

13 WHEREAS, With the enactment of Chapter 21 of the Acts of 1862, the General  
14 Assembly of Maryland ratified the Corwin Amendment; and

15 WHEREAS, The Corwin Amendment has not been ratified by three–fourths of  
16 the states and, therefore, is not part of the United States Constitution; and

17 WHEREAS, With the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th  
18 Amendment to the United States Constitution, the purposes of the Corwin  
19 Amendment have become moot; now, therefore, be it

20 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State**  
21 **of Maryland rescinds its ratification of the Corwin Amendment to the United States**  
22 **Constitution, viz:**

23 “Article



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

1           No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to  
2 Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic  
3 institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of  
4 said State.”; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Governor of the State of Maryland is requested to  
6 forward authentic copies of this Resolution, under the Great Seal of the State of  
7 Maryland, to: the Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States,  
8 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority  
9 Leader, United States Senate, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.  
10 20510; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the  
11 United States, 1011 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and  
12 the Honorable Dan M. Tangherlini, Administrator of General Services of the United  
13 States, 1800 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20405.