

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Joint Resolution 7 (Delegate Hixson, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**United States Constitutional Convention - Democracy Amendment**

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This joint resolution applies to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention to be called, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, as soon as two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention, for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to affirm every citizen's freedom to vote and restore free and fair elections in America. Delegates to the convention from Maryland may not propose amendments that do not have the primary goals of addressing the goals listed in the joint resolution. The application constitutes a continuing application until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have made application for an equivalently limited amendments convention. The resolution must be sent to the presiding officers of both Houses of the legislature of each of the states with the request that it be circulated among legislative branch leaders and that each of the states join in requesting the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention to initiate a proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution as described in the joint resolution.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** Article V of the U.S. Constitution states that Congress may propose amendments to the Constitution with votes of two thirds of both Houses. States can also

apply to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments, upon application of two thirds of the states. Amendments in either case must be ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the states or by conventions in three fourths of the states “as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress.”

All amendments to the Constitution to date have been as a result of amendments being proposed by Congress rather than a convention upon application by the states.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SJ 6 (Senator Raskin, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Senate, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2014  
ncs/hlb

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