

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

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By: **Delegates M. Fisher, Arentz, Beitzel, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Clark, Corderman, Cox, Impallaria, Jacobs, Kittleman, Krebs, Malone, Mautz, McComas, McKay, Metzgar, Miller, Pippy, Reilly, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal**
3 **Power**

4 FOR the purpose of applying to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention called
5 under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, on the application of the legislatures of
6 two-thirds of the several states, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution
7 that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and
8 jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for officials of the
9 federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress; and generally relating
10 to an application to Congress for a convention to propose amendments to the U.S.
11 Constitution.

12 WHEREAS, The founders of our Constitution empowered state legislators to be
13 guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

14 WHEREAS, The federal government has created a crushing national debt through
15 improper and imprudent spending; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states
17 through the manipulative process of federal mandates, many of which to a great extent are
18 unfunded; and

19 WHEREAS, The federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation
20 of the Constitution of the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, It is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our
22 people, particularly for the generations to come, and to propose amendments to the
23 Constitution of the United States through a Convention of the States under Article V of the
24 U.S. Constitution that would place clear restraints on abuses of power by the U.S. Congress;



1 now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, as provided
3 in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the General Assembly of Maryland respectfully applies
4 to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention to be called as soon as two-thirds of
5 the several states have applied for a convention, for the purpose of proposing an
6 amendment to the U.S. Constitution that imposes fiscal restraints on the federal
7 government, limits the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limits the
8 terms of office for officials of the federal government and for the members of the U.S.
9 Congress; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That delegates to the convention from Maryland may not propose
11 amendments that do not have the primary goals of addressing the goals listed in this Joint
12 Resolution; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a continuing application in
14 accordance with Article V of the U.S. Constitution until at least two-thirds of the
15 legislatures of the several states have made application for an equivalently limited
16 amendments convention; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Joint Resolution be sent by the Secretary
18 of State to:

19 (1) the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States,
20 President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
21 the Honorable Charles Grassley, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, 135
22 Hart Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
23 of the United States House of Representatives, 1236 Longworth House Office Building,
24 Washington, D.C. 20515;

25 (2) the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin
26 and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
27 Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes,
28 Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, David J. Trone, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie
29 Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

30 (3) the Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States,
31 National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
32 Washington, D.C. 20408; and

33 (4) the Honorable Julie E. Adams, Secretary of the United States Senate,
34 United States Capitol Building, Suite S-312, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable
35 Elizabeth MacDonough, Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, United States
36 Capitol Building, Suite S-133, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson,
37 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Suite H-154, United States Capitol
38 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Thomas J. Wickham, Jr.,
39 Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives, Room H-209, United

1 States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting that they publish this Joint
2 Resolution in the Congressional Record and list this application in the official tally of state
3 legislative applications for a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S.
4 Constitution; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State is directed to send copies of this Joint
6 Resolution to the presiding officers of both Houses of the legislature of each of the several
7 states, with the request that it be circulated among leaders in the legislative branch of the
8 state governments; and with the further request that each of the states join in requesting
9 the U.S. Congress to call an amendments convention for the purpose of initiating a proposal
10 to amend the U.S. Constitution as described in this Joint Resolution.