

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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By: **Delegate Ruth**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of ratifying the federal Child Labor Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,
4 as proposed by U.S. House Joint Resolution 184 of 1924, to provide the U.S. Congress
5 with the power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of minors; and generally
6 relating to the federal Child Labor Amendment.

7 WHEREAS, In 1924, the 68th Congress of the United States, at its first session,
8 passed House Joint Resolution 184 in both houses, resolving by a constitutional majority of
9 two-thirds of each house that the following article should be proposed as an amendment to
10 the U.S. Constitution:

11 “JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
12 CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND
13 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN
14 CONGRESS ASSEMBLED (TWO-THIRDS OF EACH HOUSE CONCURRING
15 THEREIN), That the following Article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
16 the United States, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
17 States, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution:

18 ARTICLE _____

19 Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of
20 persons under eighteen years of age.

21 Section 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that
22 the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to
23 legislation enacted by the Congress.”; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1937, when the most recent state ratified House Joint Resolution 184,
25 only 28 states had ratified it, which fell short of the three-fourths of states required to
26 ratify a constitutional amendment; and



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1 WHEREAS, The proposal for the constitutional amendment is still outstanding since
2 Congress did not set a time limit for ratification, and ratification by 10 more states is
3 required to add the amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 184 to the U.S.
4 Constitution; and

5 WHEREAS, On March 18, 1927, the 314th session of the Maryland General
6 Assembly rejected ratification of House Joint Resolution 184; and

7 WHEREAS, The 446th session of the Maryland General Assembly desires to correct
8 the mistake of its predecessor; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 2018, there has been a revived interest nationwide to ratify this
10 amendment, with ratification resolutions introduced in several states including New York,
11 Rhode Island, and Nebraska, and a resolution to ratify House Joint Resolution 184 passing
12 the Hawaii Senate in 2021 and 2022; and

13 WHEREAS, Regulating the labor of persons under the age of 18 years is necessary
14 to protect their health, welfare, and ability to obtain a quality education; and

15 WHEREAS, There has been a weakening of child labor protections in various states
16 and an increase in violations of existing laws; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Article
18 proposed as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution as set forth in U.S. House Joint
19 Resolution 184, dated June 2, 1924, is hereby ratified by the Maryland General Assembly;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
22 Legislative Services to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of
23 America, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Kamala
24 Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate
25 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of
26 the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania
27 Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and the
28 presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each state of the United States, with
29 the request that it be circulated among leadership of the legislative branch of the state
30 governments.