

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators Bates, Hough, Jennings, Norman, Ready, Salling, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate 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 imposes fiscal restraints on the federal government, limits the power and  
8 jurisdiction of the federal government, and limits the terms of office for officials of  
9 the federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress; and generally  
10 relating to an application to Congress for a convention to propose amendments to the  
11 U.S. 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;  
25 now, therefore, be it



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

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

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

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

17           (1)    the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States,  
18 President of the United States Senate, Suite S-212, United States Capitol Building,  
19 Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Orrin Hatch, President Pro Tempore of the United  
20 States Senate, 104 Hart Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Paul  
21 Ryan, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 1233 Longworth House  
22 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

23           (2)    the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A. Mikulski  
24 and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and  
25 Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P. Sarbanes,  
26 Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John K. Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
27 Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

28           (3)    the Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States,  
29 National Archives and Records Administration, 709 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,  
30 Washington, D.C. 20408;

31           (4)    the Honorable Julie E. Adams, Secretary of the United States Senate,  
32 United States Capitol Building, Suite S-312, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable  
33 Elizabeth MacDonough, Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, United States  
34 Capitol Building, Suite S-133, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Karen L. Haas,  
35 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Suite H-154, United States Capitol  
36 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Thomas J. Wickham, Jr.,  
37 Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives, Room H-209, United  
38 States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting that they publish this Joint  
39 Resolution in the Congressional Record and list this application in the official tally of state

1 legislative applications for a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S.  
2 Constitution; and be it further

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