

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Joint Resolution 12 (Delegate Queen, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Presidential Authority Over the Use of Nuclear Weapons**

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This joint resolution urges the Maryland Congressional Delegation to take all necessary steps to establish a system of checks and balances with regard to the first use of nuclear weapons and to ensure that the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons, except in circumstances of retaliation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** According to the preamble of the joint resolution, the first use of nuclear weapons against any other nuclear-armed nation would result in their immediate retaliation and invite the near total destruction of municipalities near the Washington Metropolitan Area. It also indicates that the President of the United States currently has the sole and unilateral power to launch a nuclear war without any consultation or any system of checks and balances.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2018  
nb/mcr

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