

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

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

House Joint Resolution 5 (Delegate Parrott, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Exposure to Pornography - Public Health Crisis**

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This joint resolution declares that exposure to pornography is a public health crisis that must be addressed systematically. It further declares that it is necessary to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families of the harms of pornography, and to develop pornography recovery programs. It encourages pornography education, prevention, research, and policy changes in communities in order to address the harms caused by pornography.

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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:** According to the preamble of the joint resolution, the exposure to pornography contributes to low self-esteem, eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity among minors, and an increase in the desire to engage in risky sexual behavior. It also indicates that pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children, and notes that pornography increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse, and child pornography.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2018  
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