

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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By: **Senators Ready, West, Bailey, Hough, Hershey, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

### **United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power**

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

WHEREAS, Executive orders by the President of the United States have become a vehicle through which the President may overstep the limits of constitutional authority; and

WHEREAS, The concentration of power at the federal level has had the effect of making federal officials less responsive to the will of the people and more readily influenced by lobbyists, wealthy corporations, and special interests in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Much of federal law is now enacted by federal bureaucrats who were never chosen by the people and have no accountability to the people; and

WHEREAS, Policy decisions made at the state level tend to be more responsive to the needs and desires of the people; and

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

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



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WHEREAS, The states have the ability to restore the responsiveness of government to the people and to restrain abuses of federal power by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a limited Convention of the States under Article V of the U.S. Constitution; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

(1) the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Pat Leahy, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, 437 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

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

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

(4) the Honorable Sonceria Berry, Secretary of the United States Senate, United States Capitol Building, Suite S-312, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Elizabeth MacDonough, Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, United States Capitol Building, Room H-209, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson,

Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Suite H-154, United States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives, Room H-209, United States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting that they publish this Joint Resolution in the Congressional Record and list this application in the official tally of state legislative applications for a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

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