

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

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

House Joint Resolution 2 (Delegate Bagnall)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Criminal Law - Witchcraft - Exoneration**

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This joint resolution (1) exonerates individuals formally convicted or executed for practicing witchcraft in the Province of Maryland prior to the American Revolution of all crimes relating to charges of witchcraft; (2) restores the reputations of, reinstates the good standing of, and removes the disgrace from the names of individuals who were indicted, forced to flee, banished, or acquitted; (3) apologizes on behalf of the State to the descendants of those individuals indicted, convicted, or executed under the government of the Province of Maryland, and for the harm inflicted on the family and descendants of the persecuted individuals; and (4) declares that the State acknowledges the trauma and shame that wrongfully continued to affect the families of the accused. A copy of this resolution must be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House.

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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**

**Current Law:** None.

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## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2025  
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