

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 4 (Senator Lam, *et al.*)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Use of Nuclear Weapons

This joint resolution states that the General Assembly joins the seven state legislative bodies and over 75 municipalities and counties, including Baltimore, Frederick, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties, and Washington, DC, in passing a Back from the Brink resolution. The joint resolution urges members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a new resolution that embraces the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Back from the Brink resolution. The joint resolution further urges the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The United States Constitution divides war powers between the U.S. Congress and the U.S. President. Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has power to declare war. In turn, Article II, Section 2 establishes the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SJ 2 and HJ 3 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: HJ 6 (Delegate Williams, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2025
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