

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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HJ 6/25 – HRU

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By: **Delegates Williams, Ivey, Acevero, Allen, Amprey, Bhandari, Boaf, Charkoudian, Coley, Crutchfield, Ebersole, Edelson, Embry, Fair, Fennell, Guyton, Holmes, Kaufman, Kerr, Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, McCaskill, Mireku–North, Moreno, Odom, Palakovich Carr, Patterson, Phillips, Queen, Rosenberg, Ruff, Ruth, Shetty, Smith, Solomon, Stein, Stinnett, Taveras, Taylor, Turner, Vogel, White Holland, Wilson, Wims, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Anti–Nuclear Proliferation Resolution**  
3 **(Back From the Brink Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of stating that the General Assembly joins certain other state legislative  
5 bodies, counties, and municipalities in passing a Back from the Brink resolution on  
6 reducing the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons; urging members of the State’s  
7 Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a certain federal resolution related to the use  
8 of nuclear weapons; and urging the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse  
9 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

10 WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever created by  
11 mankind; and

12 WHEREAS, 90% of nuclear weapons are controlled by the U.S. and Russia, with the  
13 rest being controlled by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea,  
14 Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

15 WHEREAS, The use of even a small fraction of nuclear weapons, such as 100  
16 Hiroshima–sized bombs, which are small bombs by modern standards, could put at least  
17 5.5 million tons of soot into the atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet,  
18 cutting food production and putting 250 million people at risk of starvation; and

19 WHEREAS, A large–scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people  
20 directly, risk starvation for 5 billion people worldwide including in the U.S., and cause  
21 unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping  
22 temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the Ice Age, causing the vast



majority of the human race to starve and possibly cause humans to become extinct as a species; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. and Russia rely on the assurances of deterrence, that nuclear arsenals are never used, and yet there have been many close calls due to human or mechanical error; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. President has the authority to unilaterally initiate the use of nuclear weapons, and during times of crisis, individuals lower in the chain of command might mistakenly do so; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, making them capable of being launched within minutes and greatly increasing the risk of an unintended or unauthorized launch, especially in current times when tensions are mounting between nuclear powers and the U.S. maintains the right to initiate a nuclear launch; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing expenditure of \$1.7 trillion over 30 years to enhance the U.S. nuclear arsenal is fueling a global arms race; and

WHEREAS, Despite the incredible expenditure on nuclear weapons, one in six military families are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, Marylanders paid an estimated \$2.1 billion in taxes in fiscal year 2024 for the nuclear weapons complex; and

WHEREAS, Living in the shadow of Washington, D.C., Marylanders are especially at risk if there is nuclear war, making it appropriate that the General Assembly of Maryland urge the federal government to do everything possible to reduce the risk of nuclear war starting by error or by intent; and

WHEREAS, Two major conflicts in 2025 involving nations that possess nuclear weapons make multilateral negotiations between nuclear nations more important now than ever; and

WHEREAS, In July 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal for ratifying nations to develop, test, produce, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten the use of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, As of September 24, 2025, 74 nations have ratified or acceded to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 77 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 118th Congress embraced the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the five policies of Back from the Brink to: (1) actively pursue a multilateral verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; (2) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; (3) end the

1 President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack; (4) take nuclear weapons off  
2 hair-trigger alert; and (5) cancel current plans to replace or modernize its nuclear arsenal;  
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
5 Assembly of Maryland joins the seven state legislative bodies in Rhode Island, Maine,  
6 Oregon, California, and over 75 municipalities and counties, including Baltimore County,  
7 Frederick County, Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, in  
8 passing a Back from the Brink resolution; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges members of the  
10 Maryland Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a new resolution in the 119th Congress  
11 that embraces the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons  
12 and the Back from the Brink resolution; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the U.S. President and  
14 the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
17 Legislative Services to the Governor of Maryland; the President of the Senate of Maryland;  
18 the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and  
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Joint Resolution be sent by the Secretary  
21 of State to: the President of the United States of America; the Vice President of the United  
22 States, President of the United States Senate; the President Pro Tempore of the United  
23 States Senate; the United States Senate Majority Leader; the United States Senate  
24 Minority Leader; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and the  
25 United States House of Representatives Minority Leader.