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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB 1073 – Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution –
Delegation to the Convention**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

This resolution is being presented to offer a process to appoint a delegation to an amendments convention called under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

An amendments convention will be called when 2/3s of the state legislatures (34) pass resolutions applying for a convention to propose amendments on the same topic (which serves as the meeting agenda). Each state chooses and instructs its delegation of commissioners, who attend the meeting and work with the other state delegations to hammer out possible **amendment proposals** on the topic(s) specified in the 34 state applications. Because they act as agents of their state legislatures, the commissioners only have legal authority to act pursuant to that specified agenda, and only to act in pursuance of their legislature's instructions. Every state gets one vote.

Any proposals that are supported by a majority of the states at the convention then get submitted back to the states for ratification. Only when 38 states ratify a proposal can it become part of our Constitution.

To be clear, passing SB 1073 does not include Maryland with the 19 other states who have passed a resolution calling for an amendment convention. However, it will prepare Maryland for when the time comes with a specific process of how our state will be represented.

The Convention of States Action Maryland (all-volunteer) organization comprises 100s of volunteers and over 28,000 total supporters from across Maryland. A few of them will be testifying here today.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 1073.