## **House Bill 925 - Support**

## House Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations "Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention" Hearing date 3/3/25

Chair and committee members.

To recap, HB 925 establishes a process for the Maryland General Assembly to select, instruct, and oversee commissioners to attend an Article V Convention of States. At this Convention, the commissioners will deliberate on proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Please note, this Bill is not a specific call for an Article V application.

To date, 16 States have passed similar Bills, and in 2025 efforts are underway in 13 other States.

There are numerous Article V applications underway that will prompt a Convention. When applications are aggregated from 34 States a Convention of States will be called.

Many organizations are lobbying States to call for an Article V Convention. Here's a summary of current applications being monitored by the Pheonix Correspondence Commission (see attached):

- 27 States have called for an Article V Convention to draft an amendment for a Balanced Budget
- 19 States have called for an Article V Convention to draft amendments for Fiscal Restraints, Term Limits, and Federal Government Overreach
- 7 States have called for an Article V Convention to draft an amendment for U.S. Term Limits
- 3 States have called for an Article V Convention to draft an amendment for Free and Fair Elections

The Maryland General Assembly has previously introduced Bills to call for a Convention of States. Between 2015-2021 there were six House Bills drafted to submit Article V applications related to Democracy and Congressional Term Limits. Some contained commissioner guidance which has been utilized to develop the contents for this standalone Bill.

In conclusion, there is an increasing awareness of waste, fraud, and abuse taking place throughout the Federal Government. Across the nation, Article V applications are being proposed to address these issues. This Bill establishes a process to select and instruct commissioners to represent Maryland in any Article V Convention of States that is called.

Please return a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 925.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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