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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB 517 – 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,

SB 517 offer a clear process to appoint a delegation to a future 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 does it become part of our Constitution.

To be clear, passing **SB 517 does not include Maryland with the 20 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.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 517.