

Written Testimony – SUPPORT SB 517

Bill: SB 517

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maria Bedard. I live in Frederick County, represented by Senator Folden in District 4.

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 517.

SB 517 outlines how the Maryland General Assembly will appoint delegates to any convention of the states in the event of an Article V Convention. **SB517 ensures that Maryland will structure, guide, and hold accountable the commissioners it appoints when an Article V Convention is convened under the United States Constitution.**

SB 517 ensures that Maryland retains full legislative control over its delegation. This legislation establishes:

- Clear qualifications for commissioners
- A defined appointment process
- Specific limits on authority
- Binding subject-matter constraints
- Reporting and transparency requirements
- Compensation standards
- And a removal mechanism if a commissioner exceeds the authority granted

SB517 bill **does not** call a Convention, nor does it propose or endorse any amendments.

Article V provides that when two-thirds of the states (34) apply, Congress will call a Convention for proposing amendments. Every state (including Maryland) will appoint commissioners. The General Assembly is responsible for these appointments to represent our state. Even if the Maryland General Assembly does not vote in favor of an Article V Convention, once 34 states approve, a convention is called. Our state should be prepared when that happens.

SB 517 maintains the General Assembly's authority, protects Maryland's interests, and ensures our state is prepared to participate in an Article V convention of the states.

I request and encourage your favorable support of SB 517.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Mougelis Bedard
Frederick, Maryland
District 4