

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Delegate M. Fisher**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal**
3 **Power**

4 FOR the purpose of applying to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention called
5 under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, on the application of the legislatures of
6 two-thirds of the several states, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution
7 that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and
8 jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for officials of the
9 federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress; and generally relating
10 to an application to Congress for a convention to propose amendments to the U.S.
11 Constitution.

12 WHEREAS, Executive orders by the President of the United States have become a
13 vehicle through which the President may overstep the limits of constitutional authority;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The concentration of power at the federal level has had the effect of
16 making federal officials less responsive to the will of the people and more readily influenced
17 by lobbyists, wealthy corporations, and special interests in Washington, D.C.; and

18 WHEREAS, Policy decisions made at the state level tend to be more responsive to
19 the needs and desires of the people; and

20 WHEREAS, The federal government has created a crushing national debt through
21 improper and imprudent spending; and

22 WHEREAS, The federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states
23 through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a
24 great extent; and

25 WHEREAS, The States have the ability to restore the responsiveness of government
26 to the people and to restrain abuses of federal power by proposing amendments to the



1 Constitution of the United States through a limited Convention of the States under Article
2 V of the U.S. Constitution; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, as provided
4 in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the General Assembly of Maryland respectfully applies
5 to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention to be called as soon as two-thirds of
6 the several states have applied for a convention, for the purpose of proposing amendments
7 to the U.S. Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the
8 power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for officials
9 of the federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That delegates to the convention from Maryland may not propose
11 amendments that do not have the primary goals of addressing the goals listed in this Joint
12 Resolution; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a continuing application in
14 accordance with Article V of the U.S. Constitution until at least two-thirds of the
15 legislatures of the several states have made application for an equivalently limited
16 amendments convention; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Joint Resolution be sent by the Secretary
18 of State to:

19 (1) the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States,
20 President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
21 the Honorable Pat Leahy, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, 437 Russell
22 Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the
23 United States House of Representatives, 1236 Longworth House Office Building,
24 Washington, D.C. 20515;

25 (2) the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin
26 and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
27 Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes,
28 Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, David J. Trone, Kweisi Mfume, and Jamie
29 Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

30 (3) the Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States,
31 National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
32 Washington, D.C. 20408; and

33 (4) the Honorable Julie E. Adams, Secretary of the United States Senate,
34 United States Capitol Building, Suite S-312, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Jason
35 Smith, Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, United States Capitol Building, Room
36 H-209, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the United
37 States House of Representatives, Suite H-154, United States Capitol Building,
38 Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Thomas J. Wickham, Jr., Parliamentarian of
39 the United States House of Representatives, Room H-209, United States Capitol Building,

1 Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting that they publish this Joint Resolution in the
2 Congressional Record and list this application in the official tally of state legislative
3 applications for a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State is directed to send copies of this Joint
6 Resolution to the presiding officers of both Houses of the legislature of each of the several
7 states, with the request that it be circulated among leaders in the legislative branch of the
8 state governments; and with the further request that each of the states join in requesting
9 the U.S. Congress to call an amendments convention for the purpose of initiating a proposal
10 to amend the U.S. Constitution as described in this Joint Resolution.