

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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HJ 7/24 – HRU

(PRE–FILED)

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By: **Delegate Ruth**

Requested: September 12, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of ratifying the federal Child Labor Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,
4 as proposed by U.S. House Joint Resolution 184 of 1924, to provide the U.S. Congress
5 with the power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of minors; and generally
6 relating to the federal Child Labor Amendment.

7 WHEREAS, In 1924, the 68th Congress of the United States, at its first session,
8 passed House Joint Resolution 184 in both houses, resolving by a constitutional majority of
9 two-thirds of each house that the following article should be proposed as an amendment to
10 the U.S. Constitution:

11 “JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
12 CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND
13 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN
14 CONGRESS ASSEMBLED (TWO–THIRDS OF EACH HOUSE CONCURRING
15 THEREIN), That the following Article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of
16 the United States, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
17 States, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution:

18 ARTICLE _____

19 Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of
20 persons under eighteen years of age.

21 Section 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that
22 the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to
23 legislation enacted by the Congress.”; and



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1 WHEREAS, In 1937, when the most recent state ratified House Joint Resolution 184,
2 only 28 states had ratified it, which fell short of the three-fourths of states required to
3 ratify a constitutional amendment; and

4 WHEREAS, The proposal for the constitutional amendment is still outstanding since
5 Congress did not set a time limit for ratification, and ratification by 10 more states is
6 required to add the amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 184 to the U.S.
7 Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, On March 18, 1927, the 314th session of the Maryland General
9 Assembly rejected ratification of House Joint Resolution 184; and

10 WHEREAS, The 447th session of the Maryland General Assembly desires to correct
11 the mistake of its predecessor; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 2018, there has been a revived interest nationwide to ratify this
13 amendment, with ratification resolutions introduced in several states including New York,
14 Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Nebraska, a resolution to ratify House Joint Resolution 184
15 passing the Hawaii Senate in 2021 and 2022, and a resolution to ratify House Joint
16 Resolution 184 passing the Connecticut House of Representatives in 2024; and

17 WHEREAS, Regulating the labor of persons under the age of 18 years is necessary
18 to protect their health, welfare, and ability to obtain a quality education; and

19 WHEREAS, There has been a weakening of child labor protections in various states
20 and an increase in violations of existing laws; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Article
22 proposed as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution as set forth in U.S. House Joint
23 Resolution 184, dated June 2, 1924, is hereby ratified by the Maryland General Assembly;
24 and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
26 Legislative Services to the President of the United States of America, 1600 Pennsylvania
27 Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; Vice President of the United States, President of the
28 United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable
29 Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records
30 Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland
31 Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each
32 state of the United States, with the request that it be circulated among leadership of the
33 legislative branch of the state governments.