

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Delegates McKay, Arentz, Boteler, Brooks, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Cox, Jacobs, Jalisi, Krebs, Malone, Mangione, McComas, Parrott, Pippy, Saab, Shoemaker, Wilson, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Congressional Term**
3 **Limits Amendment**

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 an amendment to the U.S. Constitution
7 that limits the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the
8 U.S. House of Representatives or a member of the U.S. Senate; and generally
9 relating to an application to Congress for a convention to propose an amendment to
10 the U.S. Constitution.

11 WHEREAS, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides that the U.S. Congress must
12 call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution upon
13 application by two-thirds of the states demanding such action; and

14 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly is hereby joining with other states in
15 asserting rights and responsibilities under Article V of the U.S. Constitution with regard
16 to proposing a congressional term limits amendment; and

17 WHEREAS, The representatives of residents of 23 states have passed statutes or
18 state constitutional amendments limiting ballot access to federal congressional candidates
19 on the basis of terms previously served in the U.S. Congress that have been overruled by
20 the U.S. Supreme Court; and

21 WHEREAS, The influence of money in politics and elections continues to increase
22 and members of the U.S. Congress listen more to their funders than to their voters; and

23 WHEREAS, To maximize their dollars, most PACs, especially those representing
24 corporations, give the majority of their campaign money to the incumbents in the U.S.
25 Congress, making it virtually impossible for challengers to win an election; and



1 WHEREAS, The average length of service in the U.S. Congress continues to rise,
2 which creates a detachment between the members and their constituents, causing the
3 American people to feel they are no longer being listened to; and

4 WHEREAS, Fair and competitive elections will allow for more people from a variety
5 of backgrounds to participate in the government, providing better representation and more
6 options for voters on the ballots; and

7 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly, a body of citizen legislators, desires
8 to restore the practice of frequent turnover in the membership of the U.S. Congress; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, as provided
11 in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the General Assembly of Maryland respectfully applies
12 to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention to be called, as soon as two-thirds of
13 the several states have applied for a convention, for the purpose of proposing an
14 amendment to the U.S. Constitution limited to setting a limit on the number of terms that
15 a person may be elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and a member
16 of the U.S. Senate; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this application shall be considered as covering the same subject
18 matter as the applications from other states to the U.S. Congress to call a convention to set
19 a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the U.S. House of
20 Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That this application shall be aggregated with the applications from
22 other states for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require
23 Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but shall not be aggregated with any
24 other applications on any other subject; and be it further

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

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

31 (1) the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States,
32 President of the United States Senate, Suite S-212, United States Capitol Building,
33 Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Chuck Grassley, President Pro Tempore of the
34 United States Senate, 135 Hart Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the
35 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 1236
36 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and

37 (2) the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin

1 and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
2 Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes,
3 Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, David Trone, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie
4 Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and

5 (3) the Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States,
6 National Archives and Records Administration, 709 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
7 Washington, D.C. 20408; and

8 (4) the Honorable Julie E. Adams, Secretary of the United States Senate,
9 United States Capitol Building, Suite S-312, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable
10 Elizabeth MacDonough, Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, United States
11 Capitol Building, Suite S-133, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson,
12 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Suite H-154, United States Capitol
13 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Thomas J. Wickham, Jr.,
14 Parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives, Room H-209, United
15 States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting that they publish this Joint
16 Resolution in the Congressional Record and list this application in the official tally of state
17 legislative applications for a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S.
18 Constitution; and be it further

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