

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Joint Resolution 4 (Senator Bates, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**United States Constitution - Amendments Convention - Limitations on Federal Power**

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This joint resolution states that the General Assembly applies to the U.S. Congress for an amendments convention to be called, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, as soon as two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for officials of the federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress. Delegates to the convention from Maryland may not propose amendments that do not address the goals listed in the joint resolution. The application constitutes a continuing application until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the states have made application for an equivalently limited amendments convention.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Article V of the U.S. Constitution states that Congress may propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution with votes of two-thirds of both Houses. States can also apply to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments, upon application of two-thirds of the states. Amendments in either case must be ratified by the

legislatures of three-fourths of the states or by conventions in three-fourths of the states “as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress.”

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HJ 3 (Delegate McConkey, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2016  
min/mcr

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