

## **Joint Resolution 4**

### **(House Joint Resolution 3)**

A House Joint Resolution concerning

#### **Maryland Ratification of the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution**

FOR the purpose of ratifying the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution relative to the popular election of United States Senators.

WHEREAS, The 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution provides for the direct election of Senators of a state to the United States Congress rather than for their election or appointment by a state legislature; and

WHEREAS, The 17th Amendment passed the United States Senate on June 12, 1911, and then passed the United States House of Representatives on May 13, 1912; and

WHEREAS, The 17th Amendment thereafter was ratified to become part of the United States Constitution when on April 8, 1913, Connecticut became the 36th state to ratify its adoption, thereby satisfying the requirement of the United States Constitution that any proposed constitutional amendment be approved by at least three-fourths of the states; and

WHEREAS, Following its formal ratification, the 17th Amendment subsequently also was ratified by Louisiana on June 11, 1913, and Delaware on June 25, 2010; and

WHEREAS, By its vote on February 26, 1913, Utah was the only state to reject the 17th Amendment (although the Florida legislature, which also took up the amendment, failed to complete action as the amendment never reached the Florida Senate); and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland has not taken action to either ratify or reject the 17th Amendment to be part of the United States Constitution, the State of Maryland now wishes formally to record its support for and also ratify the amendment, viz:

“Article

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one

vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of each State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the foregoing amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified by the State of Maryland to all intents and purposes as a part of the United States Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor of the State of Maryland is requested to forward authentic copies of this Resolution, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to: the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1011 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Martha N. Johnson, Acting Administrator of General Services of the United States, 1800 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20405.

**Signed by the President and the Speaker, May 22, 2012.**