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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Joint Resolution L (as introduced 10-29-19)
Sponsor: Senator Curtis S. VanderWall
Committee: Government Operations

Date Completed: 6-24-20

CONTENT

The joint resolution would apply to the Congress of the United States to call a convention to propose an amendment to the US Constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the Federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the Federal government, and limit the terms of office for Federal officials and members of Congress.

The proposed resolution specifies that the Legislature of the State of Michigan would apply to Congress, under the provisions of Article 5 of the US Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution that would impose fiscal restraints on the Federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the Federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress. (Under Article 5, Congress must call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution if required by a two-thirds majority of both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives, or upon the application of two-thirds of the state legislatures. Any proposed amendment then must be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states or at conventions in three-fourths of the states.)

If the resolution were approved, the Secretary of State would have to transmit certified copies of it to the President and Secretary of the US Senate, to the Speaker and Clerk of the US House of Representatives, and each member of the US Senate and House of Representatives from Michigan. Copies also would have to be sent "to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation".

In addition, the joint resolution states, "This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject."

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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