

# HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION 1

P1, P5

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By: **Delegate Cox**

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Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION

1 A House Simple Resolution concerning

2 **Articles of Impeachment of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.**

3 FOR the purpose of impeaching Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. and having the Governor  
4 tried by the Senate of Maryland for malfeasance in office, misuse of the police power,  
5 violations of the separation of powers, theft of the people's liberty and property,  
6 deprivation of the religious liberties of the people, and abuse of power under false  
7 pretenses.

8 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Maryland is the supreme law of the State of  
9 Maryland; and

10 WHEREAS, On January 16, 2019, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., as required by  
11 Article I, § 9 of the Maryland Constitution, swore an oath to "be faithful and bear true  
12 allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof" and  
13 to "execute the office of Governor, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State";  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has broken his oath of office by  
16 numerous, repeated, and continued violations of the Constitution of Maryland, herein  
17 detailed; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, That in accordance with Article II,  
19 § 7 and Article III, § 26 of the Maryland Constitution, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., be  
20 impeached for malfeasance in office, misuse of the police power, violations of the separation  
21 of powers, theft of the people's liberty and property, deprivation of the religious liberties of  
22 the people, and abuse of power under false pretenses; and that the following articles of  
23 impeachment are to be exhibited to the Senate of Maryland:

24 **ARTICLE I**

25 The Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that "all government of right originates from  
26 the people, is founded in compact only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole".



1 Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has repeatedly and notoriously violated that compact by  
2 issuing orders that are restrictive and protracted beyond the intent of the legislature when  
3 it granted the Governor the authority to restrict certain freedoms during a state of  
4 emergency. Since March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has issued orders  
5 requiring religious facilities and businesses to close, declaring some businesses to be  
6 “non–essential”, ordering citizens to stay in their homes, restricting citizens’ right to travel,  
7 and limiting the right of citizens to assemble. In November 2020, police were required to  
8 enforce orders limiting the rights of assembly at private–family Thanksgiving meals, and  
9 Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., boasted of a “snitch line” he established to allow people  
10 to call into State authorities to report on their neighbors having Thanksgiving Day  
11 celebrations. At the same time, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has, individually or  
12 through staff, awarded procurement contracts based on political relationships, misspent  
13 Marylanders’ tax dollars on unusable COVID–19 test kits, and intentionally misled the  
14 legislature and the public on the status of the inadequate test kits. These malfeasances  
15 demonstrate contempt for the Constitution of Maryland and the limits it places on the  
16 authority of the office of Governor. It further indicates that Governor Lawrence J. Hogan,  
17 Jr., has disregarded the document that creates the office he holds, thereby disregarding the  
18 source of his rightful authority. With these actions, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has  
19 breached the compact which binds him to the people as their governor. Accordingly, the  
20 duty of the General Assembly is to recognize and declare the removal of Governor Lawrence  
21 J. Hogan, Jr., from the office of Governor by impeachment.

22

## ARTICLE II

23 Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. has violated the Maryland Constitution and has betrayed  
24 the trust of Maryland and abused his authority over law enforcement officers by ordering  
25 the COVID–19 Compliance and Coordination Center, which operates out of his office on the  
26 second floor of the State House, and High Visibility Units to interfere with the lawful  
27 constitutional authority of the elected local sheriffs and require them to violate the  
28 constitutional rights of Marylanders rather than to defend and protect the rights of the  
29 people as their oath requires. Article 4 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that  
30 “the People of this State have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal  
31 government and police thereof, as a free, sovereign and independent State”. By ordering  
32 the police to enforce unconstitutional mandates, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has  
33 prevented the police from following their constitutional mission and duties. Additionally,  
34 his decision to keep all communications with his COVID–19 team secret, even using a “burn  
35 on read” messaging application called Wickr, is detrimental to good government, secretive,  
36 and devoid of authority. These conversations included COVID–19 communications and may  
37 have also included his unlawful decision to fly and bus into the State, in the cover of night,  
38 thousands of unvetted unlawful–entry foreign nationals, and then release them onto our  
39 streets, endangering the public safety and health.

40

## ARTICLE III

41 Article 8 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that “the Legislative, Executive  
42 and Judicial powers ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other; and no  
43 person exercising the functions of one of said Departments shall assume or discharge the

1 duties of any other”. By means of edicts, orders, and proclamations, Governor Lawrence J.  
2 Hogan, Jr., has attempted to make laws without constitutional authority to do so.

#### 3 ARTICLE IV

4 Article 24 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that “no man ought to be taken  
5 or imprisoned or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or,  
6 in any manner, destroyed, or deprived of life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his  
7 peers, or by the Law of the land”. By means of extraconstitutional orders to stay at home,  
8 Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has violated the people’s right to travel, to earn a  
9 livelihood, and to assemble. By ordering businesses to be closed, he has deprived business  
10 owners of their property without due process of law.

11 Moreover, while Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., was misusing his authority to close  
12 businesses that he capriciously labeled as “non–essential”, there were no comparable  
13 suspensions or layoffs of State workers, despite the fact that, during weather or other  
14 emergencies, some State employees are, in fact, referred to as “non–essential”. Private  
15 sector companies and employees deserve the same protections and opportunities to  
16 maintain employment and income that are provided to State employees.

17 In addition, in concert with the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Maryland  
18 Department of Health, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., authorized a vaccination passport  
19 system called “myirmobile.com” and has issued orders both from his own office and through  
20 the Maryland Department of Health to ban and prevent access to prophylactic medications,  
21 including hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. Just days after he received prophylactic  
22 treatment with monoclonal antibodies, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., banned their use  
23 in Maryland with a “stop–use and shelve” order. Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has also  
24 ordered State healthcare workers to take the experimental job or lose their jobs, resulting  
25 in a loss of healthcare workers in Maryland at a time when they should be viewed as heroic  
26 for serving overtime and double shifts during the COVID–19 pandemic. These acts of  
27 tyranny have directly resulted in the deaths of many Marylanders who were unable to use  
28 prophylactics that have been proven to save lives and to receive proper health care  
29 necessary for healing because of a lack of staffing.

#### 30 ARTICLE V

31 Article 36 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights protects religious liberty by providing  
32 “[t]hat as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most  
33 acceptable to Him, all persons are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty;  
34 wherefore, no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate, on account of  
35 his religious persuasion, or profession, or for his religious practice”. Governor Lawrence J.  
36 Hogan, Jr., violated Article 36 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights by unlawfully closing  
37 religious facilities, sending State troopers to outdoor Easter services, and sending police  
38 and other State officials to enforce the closures against Marylanders seeking to worship in  
39 their chosen manner.

#### 40 ARTICLE VI

## HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION 1

1 Article 44 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides “[t]hat the provisions of the  
2 Constitution of the United States, and of this State, apply, as well in time of war, as in time  
3 of peace; and any departure therefrom, or violation thereof, under the plea of necessity, or  
4 any other plea, is subversive of good Government, and tends to anarchy and despotism”.  
5 Article I, § 10 of the United States Constitution provides that “[n]o State shall enter into  
6 any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation” and that “[n]o State shall, without the consent of  
7 the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be  
8 absolutely necessary for executing it’s inspection Laws...and all such Laws shall be subject  
9 to the Revision and Control of the Congress”. Lastly, it provides that “[n]o State shall,  
10 without the Consent of Congress...enter into any Agreement or Compact with another  
11 State, or with a foreign Power”. On August 1, 2019, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. sought  
12 to undermine the trade and treaty authority of the Congress and the President of the  
13 United States with comments made on television as the Chair of the National Governors  
14 Association. Furthermore, he procured from South Korea, with over \$11 million of  
15 Maryland’s taxpayer dollars, faulty COVID–19 test kits without first obtaining the consent  
16 of the federal government, which had provided free test kits that actually worked.

17 In all of this, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as  
18 Governor and subversive of the State’s constitutional government, to the great prejudice of  
19 the cause of law and justice, and to the manifest injury of the people of Maryland.  
20 Wherefore, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and  
21 removal from office; and be it further

22         RESOLVED, That the majority of all elected members of the Maryland House of  
23 Delegates concur in the impeachment of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.; and be it further

24         RESOLVED, That the Senate of Maryland shall conduct a trial of Governor  
25 Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., for impeachment in accordance with Article II, § 7 of the Maryland  
26 Constitution; and be it further

27         RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
28 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the  
29 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
30 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.