

4523

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 5, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. STEC -- read once and referred to the Committee
on Environmental Conservation

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing an amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the constitution,
in relation to the gathering of fallen timber from the lands of the
state forest preserve

1 Section 1. RESOLVED (if the Senate concur), That section 1 of article
2 14 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:
3 Section 1. A. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired,
4 constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever
5 kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged,
6 or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber
7 thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. Nothing herein contained shall
8 prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any
9 highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment,
10 nor from constructing and maintaining to federal standards federal aid
11 interstate highway route five hundred two from a point in the vicinity
12 of the city of Glens Falls, thence northerly to the vicinity of the
13 villages of Lake George and Warrensburg, the hamlets of South Horicon
14 and Pottersville and thence northerly in a generally straight line on
15 the west side of Schroon Lake to the vicinity of the hamlet of Schroon,
16 then continuing northerly to the vicinity of Schroon Falls, Schroon
17 River and North Hudson, and to the east of Makomis Mountain, east of the
18 hamlet of New Russia, east of the village of Elizabethtown and continu-
19 ing northerly in the vicinity of the hamlet of Towers Forge, and east of
20 Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain and continuing northerly to the vicinity of
21 the village of Keeseville and the city of Plattsburgh, all of the afore-
22 said taking not to exceed a total of three hundred acres of state forest
23 preserve land, nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twen-
24 ty-five miles of ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together
25 with appurtenances thereto, provided that no more than five miles of
26 such trails shall be in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 north, east and northwest slopes of Whiteface Mountain in Essex county,
2 nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty-five miles of
3 ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances
4 thereto, provided that no more than two miles of such trails shall be in
5 excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the slopes of Belleayre Moun-
6 tain in Ulster and Delaware counties and not more than forty miles of
7 ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances
8 thereto, provided that no more than eight miles of such trails shall be
9 in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the slopes of Gore and
10 Pete Gay mountains in Warren county, nor from relocating, reconstructing
11 and maintaining a total of not more than fifty miles of existing state
12 highways for the purpose of eliminating the hazards of dangerous curves
13 and grades, provided a total of no more than four hundred acres of
14 forest preserve land shall be used for such purpose and that no single
15 relocated portion of any highway shall exceed one mile in length.
16 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the state may convey to the
17 village of Saranac Lake ten acres of forest preserve land adjacent to
18 the boundaries of such village for public use in providing for refuse
19 disposal and in exchange [therefore] THEREFOR the village of Saranac
20 Lake shall convey to the state thirty acres of certain true forest land
21 owned by such village on Roaring Brook in the northern half of Lot 113,
22 Township 11, Richards Survey. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions,
23 the state may convey to the town of Arietta twenty-eight acres of forest
24 preserve land within such town for public use in providing for the
25 extension of the runway and landing strip of the Piseco airport and in
26 exchange therefor the town of Arietta shall convey to the state thirty
27 acres of certain land owned by such town in the town of Arietta.
28 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative
29 approval of the tracts to be exchanged prior to the actual transfer of
30 title, the state, in order to consolidate its land holdings for better
31 management, may convey to International Paper Company approximately
32 eight thousand five hundred acres of forest preserve land located in
33 townships two and three of Totten and Crossfield's Purchase and township
34 nine of the Moose River Tract, Hamilton county, and in exchange [there-
35 fore] THEREFOR International Paper Company shall convey to the state for
36 incorporation into the forest preserve approximately the same number of
37 acres of land located within such townships and such County on condition
38 that the legislature shall determine that the lands to be received by
39 the state are at least equal in value to the lands to be conveyed by the
40 state. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legisla-
41 tive approval of the tracts to be exchanged prior to the actual transfer
42 of title and the conditions herein set forth, the state, in order to
43 facilitate the preservation of historic buildings listed on the national
44 register of historic places by rejoining an historic grouping of build-
45 ings under unitary ownership and stewardship, may convey to Sagamore
46 Institute Inc., a not-for-profit educational organization, approximately
47 ten acres of land and buildings thereon adjoining the real property of
48 the Sagamore Institute, Inc. and located on Sagamore Road, near
49 Racquette Lake Village, in the Town of Long Lake, county of Hamilton,
50 and in exchange therefor; Sagamore Institute, Inc. shall convey to the
51 state for incorporation into the forest preserve approximately two
52 hundred acres of wild forest land located within the Adirondack Park on
53 condition that the legislature shall determine that the lands to be
54 received by the state are at least equal in value to the lands and
55 buildings to be conveyed by the state and that the natural and historic
56 character of the lands and buildings conveyed by the state will be

1 secured by appropriate covenants and restrictions and that the lands and
2 buildings conveyed by the state will reasonably be available for public
3 visits according to agreement between Sagamore Institute, Inc. and the
4 state. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions the state may convey to
5 the town of Arietta fifty acres of forest preserve land within such town
6 for public use in providing for the extension of the runway and landing
7 strip of the Piseco airport and providing for the maintenance of a clear
8 zone around such runway, and in exchange therefor, the town of Arietta
9 shall convey to the state fifty-three acres of true forest land located
10 in lot 2 township 2 Totten and Crossfield's Purchase in the town of Lake
11 Pleasant.

12 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative
13 approval prior to actual transfer of title, the state may convey to the
14 town of Keene, Essex county, for public use as a cemetery owned by such
15 town, approximately twelve acres of forest preserve land within such
16 town and, in exchange therefor, the town of Keene shall convey to the
17 state for incorporation into the forest preserve approximately one
18 hundred forty-four acres of land, together with an easement over land
19 owned by such town including the riverbed adjacent to the land to be
20 conveyed to the state that will restrict further development of such
21 land, on condition that the legislature shall determine that the proper-
22 ty to be received by the state is at least equal in value to the land to
23 be conveyed by the state.

24 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative
25 approval prior to actual transfer of title, because there is no viable
26 alternative to using forest preserve lands for the siting of drinking
27 water wells and necessary appurtenances and because such wells are
28 necessary to meet drinking water quality standards, the state may convey
29 to the town of Long Lake, Hamilton county, one acre of forest preserve
30 land within such town for public use as the site of such drinking water
31 wells and necessary appurtenances for the municipal water supply for the
32 hamlet of Raquette Lake. In exchange therefor, the town of Long Lake
33 shall convey to the state at least twelve acres of land located in
34 Hamilton county for incorporation into the forest preserve that the
35 legislature shall determine is at least equal in value to the land to be
36 conveyed by the state. The Raquette Lake surface reservoir shall be
37 abandoned as a drinking water supply source.

38 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative
39 approval prior to actual transfer of title, the state may convey to
40 National Grid up to six acres adjoining State Route 56 in St. Lawrence
41 County where it passes through Forest Preserve in Township 5, Lots 1, 2,
42 5 and 6 that is necessary and appropriate for National Grid to construct
43 a new 46kV power line and in exchange [therefore] THEREFOR National Grid
44 shall convey to the state for incorporation into the forest preserve at
45 least 10 acres of forest land owned by National Grid in St. Lawrence
46 county, on condition that the legislature shall determine that the prop-
47 erty to be received by the state is at least equal in value to the land
48 conveyed by the state.

49 B. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL
50 PROHIBIT RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FROM GATHERING FALLEN TIMBER LYING ON
51 THE FOREST FLOOR ON STATE-OWNED LANDS WHEN SUCH TIMBER IS WITHIN FIFTY
52 FEET OF THE CENTER LINE OF A PUBLIC HIGHWAY, EXCEPT LANDS THE COMMIS-
53 SIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION MAY DESIGNATE BY RULE AND REGU-
54 LATION WHERE SUCH GATHERING SHALL BE PROHIBITED. EVERY PERSON GATHERING
55 FALLEN TIMBER PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL DO SO

1 AT HIS OR HER OWN RISK AND WITHOUT DISTURBING THE SURROUNDING VEGE-
2 TATION.

3 S 2. RESOLVED (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing be referred
4 to the first regular legislative session convening after the next
5 succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in conform-
6 ity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3
7 months previous to the time of such election.