

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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133

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

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Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing an amendment to section 4 of article 14 of the constitution, in relation to environmental protection

1 Section 1. RESOLVED (if the Assembly concur), That section 4 of article 14 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

2 § 4. The policy of the state shall be to conserve and protect its  
3 natural and cultural resources and scenic beauty and encourage the  
4 development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production  
5 of food and other agricultural products. The legislature, in implementing  
6 this policy, shall include adequate provision for the abatement of  
7 air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise, the  
8 protection of agricultural lands, wetlands and shorelines, and the  
9 development and regulation of water resources and shall establish an  
10 office of public advocate with the authority to commence civil action  
11 against the state or any of its departments, agencies or bureaus or its  
12 public authorities to protect the public's interest in the state's  
13 natural and cultural resources. The legislature shall further provide  
14 for the acquisition of lands and waters, including improvements thereon  
15 and any interest therein, outside the forest preserve counties, and the  
16 dedication of properties so acquired or now owned, which because of  
17 their natural beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or  
18 historical significance, shall be preserved and administered for the use  
19 and enjoyment of the people. Properties so dedicated shall constitute  
20 the state nature and historical preserve and they shall not be taken or  
21 otherwise disposed of except by law enacted by two successive regular  
22 sessions of the legislature.

23 § 2. RESOLVED (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing be referred  
24 to the first regular legislative session convening after the next  
25 succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in conform-

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

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1 ity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3  
2 months previous to the time of such election.