

STATE OF NEW YORK

133

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

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

LBD89026-01-7

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