STATE OF NEW YORK

2414

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2017

Introduced by Sens. LITTLE, AMEDORE, SEWARD -- 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 article 14 of the constitution, in relation to allowing public utility lines and bicycle paths on certain state lands in the forest preserve and establishing a forest preserve health and safety land account

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 1 of article 14 of the constitution be amended by adding a new undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative approval prior to actual transfer of title, a total of no more than two hundred fifty acres of forest preserve land shall be used for the establishment of a health and safety land account. Where no viable alternative exists and other criteria developed by the legislature are satisfied, a town, village or county may apply, pursuant to a process determined by the legislature, to the health and safety land account for projects limited to: address bridge hazards or safety on county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained; elimination of the hazards of dangerous curves and grades on county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained; relocation and reconstruction and maintenance of county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen and annually plowed and regularly maintained, provided further that no single relocated portion of any such highway shall exceed one mile in length; and water wells and

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

LBD89016-01-7

necessary appurtenances when such wells are necessary to meet drinking water quality standards and are located within five hundred thirty feet of state highways, county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained. As a condition of the creation of such health and safety land account the state shall acquire two hundred fifty acres of land for incorporation into the forest preserve, on condition that the legislature shall approve such lands to be added to the forest preserve.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 14 of the constitution be amended by adding a new section 6 to read as follows:

§ 6. Where state, county, or town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained, traverse forest preserve land, public utility lines, limited to electric, telephone, broadband, water or sewer lines as defined in law, may, consistent with standards and requirements set forth in law, and following receipt of all permits or authorizations required by law, be buried or co-located within the widths of such highways as defined in law, and bicycle paths may, consistent with standards and requirements set forth in law, and following receipt of all permits or authorizations required by law, be constructed and maintained within the widths of such highways, as defined in law; provided, however, when no viable alternative exists and when necessary to ensure public health and safety, a stabilization device for an existing utility pole may be located in proximity to the width of the road, as defined in law; provided further, that any co-location, burial, maintenance or construction shall minimize the removal of trees or vegetation and shall not include the construction of any new intrastate natural gas or oil pipelines that have not received all necessary state and local permits and authorizations as of June first, two thousand sixteen.

§ 3. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be submitted to the people for approval at the general election to be held in the year 2017 in accordance with the provisions of the election law.