

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1061

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. CAHILL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON  
-- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

### 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 Senate concur), That section 4 of article  
2 14 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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