

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7535--B

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. JONES, SIMPSON, ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing an amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution, in relation to conveying land to Debar Pond Institute in order to facilitate the preservation of historic buildings

1 Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section 1 of article  
2 14 of the constitution be amended as follows:  
3 Section 1. 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-

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

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

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

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

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

42 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative  
43 approval prior to actual transfer of title, the state may convey to  
44 National Grid up to six acres adjoining State Route 56 in St. Lawrence  
45 County where it passes through Forest Preserve in Township 5, Lots 1, 2,  
46 5 and 6 that is necessary and appropriate for National Grid to construct  
47 a new 46kV power line and in exchange therefore National Grid shall  
48 convey to the state for incorporation into the forest preserve at least  
49 10 acres of forest land owned by National Grid in St. Lawrence county,  
50 on condition that the legislature shall determine that the property to  
51 be received by the state is at least equal in value to the land conveyed  
52 by the state.

53 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the legislature may author-  
54 ize the settlement, according to terms determined by the legislature, of  
55 title disputes in township forty, Totten and Crossfield purchase in the  
56 town of Long Lake, Hamilton county, to resolve longstanding and compet-

1 ing claims of title between the state and private parties in said town-  
2 ship, provided that prior to, and as a condition of such settlement,  
3 land purchased without the use of state-appropriated funds, and suitable  
4 for incorporation in the forest preserve within the Adirondack park,  
5 shall be conveyed to the state on the condition that the legislature  
6 shall determine that the property to be conveyed to the state shall  
7 provide a net benefit to the forest preserve as compared to the township  
8 forty lands subject to such settlement.

9 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the state may authorize NYCO  
10 Minerals, Inc. to engage in mineral sampling operations, solely at its  
11 expense, to determine the quantity and quality of wollastonite on  
12 approximately 200 acres of forest preserve land contained in lot 8,  
13 Stowers survey, town of Lewis, Essex county provided that NYCO Minerals,  
14 Inc. shall provide the data and information derived from such drilling  
15 to the state for appraisal purposes. Subject to legislative approval of  
16 the tracts to be exchanged prior to the actual transfer of title, the  
17 state may subsequently convey said lot 8 to NYCO Minerals, Inc., and, in  
18 exchange therefor, NYCO Minerals, Inc. shall convey to the state for  
19 incorporation into the forest preserve not less than the same number of  
20 acres of land, on condition that the legislature shall determine that  
21 the lands to be received by the state are equal to or greater than the  
22 value of the land to be conveyed by the state and on condition that the  
23 assessed value of the land to be conveyed to the state shall total not  
24 less than one million dollars. When NYCO Minerals, Inc. terminates all  
25 mining operations on such lot 8 it shall remediate the site and convey  
26 title to such lot back to the state of New York for inclusion in the  
27 forest preserve. In the event that lot 8 is not conveyed to NYCO  
28 Minerals, Inc. pursuant to this paragraph, NYCO Minerals, Inc. never-  
29 theless shall convey to the state for incorporation into the forest  
30 preserve not less than the same number of acres of land that is  
31 disturbed by any mineral sampling operations conducted on said lot 8  
32 pursuant to this paragraph on condition that the legislature shall  
33 determine that the lands to be received by the state are equal to or  
34 greater than the value of the lands disturbed by the mineral sampling  
35 operations.

36 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative  
37 approval prior to actual transfer of title, a total of no more than two  
38 hundred fifty acres of forest preserve land shall be used for the estab-  
39 lishment of a health and safety land account. Where no viable alterna-  
40 tive exists and other criteria developed by the legislature are satis-  
41 fied, a town, village or county may apply, pursuant to a process  
42 determined by the legislature, to the health and safety land account for  
43 projects limited to: address bridge hazards or safety on county high-  
44 ways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained  
45 by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on  
46 January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly  
47 maintained; elimination of the hazards of dangerous curves and grades on  
48 county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory  
49 maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in exist-  
50 ence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and  
51 regularly maintained; relocation and reconstruction and maintenance of  
52 county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory  
53 maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in exist-  
54 ence on January first, two thousand fifteen and annually plowed and  
55 regularly maintained, provided further that no single relocated portion  
56 of any such highway shall exceed one mile in length; and water wells and

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

11 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative  
12 approval of the tracts to be exchanged prior to the actual transfer of  
13 title and the conditions herein set forth, the state, in order to facil-  
14 itate the preservation of historic buildings listed on the national  
15 register of historic places may convey to Debar Pond Institute, Inc., a  
16 not-for-profit corporation, approximately six acres of land including  
17 Debar Pond Lodge and associated buildings with rights of ingress and  
18 egress on and the right to use, maintain, and improve for safe passage  
19 the road from County Route 26 to Debar Pond Lodge, the right to use and  
20 maintain the existing utility line, and the right to draw water from  
21 Debar Pond for the purposes of water supply and fire suppression, in the  
22 Town of Duane, county of Franklin, and in exchange therefor; Debar Pond  
23 Institute, Inc. shall convey to the state for incorporation into the  
24 forest preserve not less than four hundred acres of land located within  
25 the Adirondack Park on condition that the legislature shall determine  
26 that the lands to be received by the state are at least equal in value  
27 to the lands and buildings to be conveyed by the state, that the lands  
28 and buildings conveyed by the state will be reasonably available for  
29 public use and visits, and that the natural and historic character of  
30 the lands and buildings conveyed by the state will be secured by a  
31 lawful conservation easement held by the state of New York.

32 § 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be  
33 referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the  
34 next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in  
35 conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be  
36 published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.