

General Assembly

Senate Joint Resolution No. 193

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 2413



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by: (GAE)

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.

Resolved by this Assembly:

- 1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
- 2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
- 3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
- 4 become a part thereof:
- 5 Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding section 21 as
- 6 follows:
- 7 Sec. 21. Each person shall have an individual right to clean and
- 8 healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment and a safe and
- 9 stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general
- welfare. The state shall not infringe upon these rights and shall protect
- 11 these rights equitably for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal
- 12 affiliation, gender, socioeconomic status or geography. The state shall
- 13 serve as trustee of all of the natural resources of this state, including its
- 14 waters, air, flora, fauna, soils, and climate, and shall conserve, protect,

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and maintain these resources for the benefit of all people, including present and future generations. Any funds supporting the state in its obligations as trustee as stated in this section shall not be diverted for nontrust purposes. The rights stated in this section are equivalent to all other inalienable rights and may be directly invoked and enforced by the residents of this state.

RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly elected at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to provide each citizen an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment, and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general welfare, and to place certain obligations on the state as trustee of the state's natural resources?"

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