

BILL NUMBER: [S5287](#)

TITLE OF BILL:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

To protect public health and the environment by ensuring clean air and water.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Amends the State Constitution's bill of rights to include a right to clean air and water and a healthful environment.

JUSTIFICATION:

Recent water contamination and ongoing concerns about air quality have highlighted the importance of clean drinking water and air as well as the need for additional protections. Several other states including Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Massachusetts and Montana have constitutional protections in place to ensure access to clean air and water. This proposed constitutional amendment would follow those models and ensure that clean air and water are treated as fundamental rights for New Yorkers.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

This is new legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

None

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolved, that the foregoing amendments be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members to the Senate, and in, conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.