

BILL NUMBER: S528

SPONSOR: JACKSON

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:

2019-20: S2072/A2064 - Passed both houses in 2019/Delivered to Secretary of State

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

None

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolved, that the foregoing amendments be submitted to the people for approval at the general election to be held in the year 2021 in accordance with the provisions of the election law.