

A02064 Memo:

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)

BILL NUMBER: A2064

SPONSOR: Englebright

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:

The purpose of this bill is 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
clear air and water and a healthful environment.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND AMENDED VERSION (IF APPLICABLE) :

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 and to protect the overall health of the people and the environment.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

2017-18 A.6279 passed assembly

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 assembly, and in, conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.