

A01368 Memo:

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

BILL NUMBER: A1368

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:

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

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

2019: A.2064 (Englebright) - Passed the Assembly and Senate.

2017: A.6279 (Englebright) - Passed the Assembly.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

None

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Resolved, That if the foregoing amendment 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.