

**A06279 Memo:**

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

**BILL NUMBER:** A6279

Revised 04/24/17

**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:**

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 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.