



General Assembly

***Substitute Senate Joint
Resolution No. 193***

February Session, 2024



***RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding section 21 as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 21. Each person shall have an individual right to clean and
8 healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment and a safe and
9 stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general
10 welfare. The state shall not infringe upon these rights and shall protect
11 these rights equitably for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal
12 affiliation, gender, socioeconomic status or geography. Recognizing all
13 of the residents of the state, including present and future generations, as
14 the beneficiaries of a healthy environment, the state shall conserve,
15 protect and maintain, for these beneficiaries, all of the natural resources
16 of Connecticut, including its waters, air, flora, fauna, soils and climate.
17 Any funds supporting protection of the state's natural resources shall
18 not be diverted. The rights stated in this section are equivalent to all

19 other inalienable rights and may be directly invoked and enforced by
20 the residents of this state.

21 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
22 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
23 elected at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and
24 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
25 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024,
26 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
27 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
28 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
29 State be amended to (1) provide each citizen an enforceable individual
30 right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment,
31 and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and
32 the general welfare, that is equivalent to all other inalienable rights, (2)
33 require the state to conserve, protect and maintain the state's natural
34 resources, and (3) prohibit the diversion of funds supporting protection
35 of such resources?"

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*