



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 510**

February Session, 2026

Senate Joint Resolution No. 37

*Senate, April 8, 2026*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the joint resolution ought to be adopted.

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

Resolved by this Assembly:

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

5 Section 1. Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding the  
6 following section:

7 Each person shall have an individual right to clean and healthy air,  
8 water, soil and ecosystems, a clean and healthy environment and a safe  
9 and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general  
10 welfare. The state shall protect these rights equitably for all people  
11 regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, gender, socioeconomic  
12 status or geography. Recognizing all of the residents of the state,  
13 including present and future generations, as the beneficiaries of a

14 healthy environment, the state shall conserve, manage, protect and  
15 maintain, for these beneficiaries, all of the natural resources of  
16 Connecticut, including its waters, air, flora, fauna, soils and climate. The  
17 state shall not allow, through government action or inaction, any  
18 degradation, diminution or depletion of the natural environment that is  
19 avoidable, contributes to significant or widespread environmental harm  
20 or results in an unhealthy or unsustainable environment. Any funds  
21 supporting protection of the state's natural resources shall not be  
22 diverted. The rights stated in this section are equivalent to all other  
23 inalienable rights, may not be infringed and may be directly invoked  
24 and enforced by the residents of this state.

25       RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
26 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
27 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, and  
28 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented  
29 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026,  
30 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments  
31 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be  
32 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the  
33 State be amended to (1) provide each citizen an enforceable individual  
34 right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment,  
35 and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and  
36 the general welfare, that is equivalent to all other inalienable rights, (2)  
37 place certain obligations upon the state, including requiring the state to  
38 conserve, manage, protect and maintain the state's natural resources,  
39 and (3) prohibit the diversion of funds supporting protection of such  
40 resources?"

**GAE**       *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	25,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The resolution places a proposed amendment on either the November 2026 or November 2028 ballot to establish in the Constitution an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, and ecosystems, resulting in a cost to the Secretary of the State (SOTS) of \$25,000 in either FY 27 or FY 29.

The timing of the cost is dependent on when the requirements for the resolution's passage are met. The resolution must pass by three-quarters of the General Assembly for the cost to be incurred in FY 27. If the requisite votes are not met, but the resolution is approved by a majority in that session and the next, then the cost to SOTS will shift to FY 29.

The cost to SOTS for placing the proposed amendment on the ballot includes printing and postage for distributing the amendment to municipalities for inclusion.

**The Out Years**

The SOTS cost of placing the amendment on the ballot may occur in FY 29, as described above.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SJ 37****RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.****SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a state constitutional amendment to give each person an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems, and environment and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety, and the general welfare. It prohibits anyone from infringing on these rights and requires the state to protect them equitably for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, gender, socioeconomic status, or geography. It also requires the state to conserve, protect, and maintain all the state's natural resources for its residents (present and future), including its waters, air, flora, fauna, soils, and climate.

The resolution directs that the state shall not allow, through government action or inaction, any avoidable degradation, diminution, or depletion of the natural environment that contributes to significant or widespread environmental harm, or results in an unhealthy or unsustainable environment.

Under the resolution, these rights are inalienable, and state residents may directly invoke and enforce them. The resolution also prohibits diverting any funds supporting the protection of the state's natural resources.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to (1) provide each citizen an enforceable individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment, and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general

welfare, that is equivalent to all other inalienable rights, (2) place certain obligations upon the state, including requiring the state to conserve, manage, protect and maintain the state’s natural resources, and (3) prohibit the diversion of funds supporting protection of such resources?”

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the General Assembly, it will be placed on the 2026 general election ballot. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2027 legislative session. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2028 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting on the amendment in the general election approves it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/20/2026)