



General Assembly

**House Joint  
Resolution No. 37**

*January Session, 2023*

LCO No. 3910



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

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

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 and environment, a stable climate and self-  
9 sustaining ecosystems for the benefit of public health, safety and the  
10 general welfare. The state shall not infringe upon these rights. The state  
11 shall protect these rights equitably for all people regardless of race,  
12 ethnicity, tribal membership status, gender, socioeconomics or  
13 geography. The state, municipalities and any political subdivision  
14 thereof, shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of the state, among

15 them being its waters, air, flora, fauna, soils, and climate; and shall  
16 conserve, protect, and maintain these resources for the benefit of all  
17 people, including present and future generations. The rights stated in  
18 this section are inherent, inalienable, and inalienable, are among those  
19 rights reserved to the people, and are equivalent with all other  
20 inalienable rights.

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 provide each citizen an individual right to clean  
30 and healthy air, water, soil and environment, a stable climate; and self-  
31 sustaining ecosystems for the benefit of public health, safety and the  
32 general welfare?"