



General Assembly

**February Session,  
2016**

Senate Resolution

*Senate, January 13, 2016*

Proposed by: Senator Witkos, 8<sup>th</sup> District.

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE, PARKS, FORESTS AND FARMLANDS.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

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

Article third of the Constitution is amended by adding section 19 as follows:

Sec. 19. State park and forest land or other real estate, held by the State in fee or by easement for conservation, recreation, or agricultural purposes, may not be sold, transferred to another party, or converted to other uses except by a two-thirds vote off all members elected to each chamber in a Special Act devoted solely to such sale, transfer, or conversion following a public hearing in the town or towns where such land is located. The fair market value of any such land shall be appropriated in the bill authorizing such sale, transfer or conversion for the sole purpose of purchasing additional land of similar conservation, recreation, or agricultural vale in as close proximity as possible to the land sold, transferred, or converted.

RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly elected at the general election to be held on November 8, 2016, and published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented to the electors at the general election to be held on November 8, 2016, whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to ensure (1) that any transfer, sale or conversion of State controlled open space, parks, forests or farms require a two-thirds vote of each chamber of the General Assembly, and (2) that all money received for any transfer, sale or conversion be used solely to replace it with similar land to be used for open space, parks, forests or farms?"