



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 36**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 2238



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE TO PROTECT CERTAIN PROPERTY
HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION,
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

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
4 purposes, become a part thereof:

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

7 Sec. 19. State park or forest land, farm land or other real property
8 held by the state in fee or in easement for conservation, recreational,
9 open space or agricultural purposes, may not be sold, transferred to
10 any person or other entity or converted to another use, except
11 following a public hearing conducted by the state agency having
12 custody or control of such property or easement in the town or towns

13 where such property or easement is located and by passage of a special
14 act of the general assembly by a yea vote of at least two-thirds of the
15 membership of each house. Any such special act shall be limited in
16 subject matter to provisions concerning such sale, transfer or
17 conversion and shall contain an appropriation to the state agency
18 having custody or control of such property or easement in an amount
19 equal to the fair market value of the property or easement for the sole
20 purpose of purchasing additional real property or an easement of
21 similar value for conservation, recreational, open space or agricultural
22 purposes and in as close proximity as feasible to the property or
23 easement being sold, transferred or converted to another use.

24 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
25 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
26 elected at the general election to be held on November 8, 2016, and
27 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
28 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 8, 2016,
29 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
30 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
31 amendment to be used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the
32 Constitution of the State be amended to (1) require a public hearing
33 and a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly to authorize any sale,
34 transfer or conversion of state-owned or state-controlled park land,
35 forest land, farm land or other property or easement used for
36 conservation, recreational, open space or agricultural purposes, and (2)
37 require that funds be appropriated to acquire property or an easement
38 to replace any such sold, transferred or converted property or
39 easement?"