

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 138**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED MAY 20, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

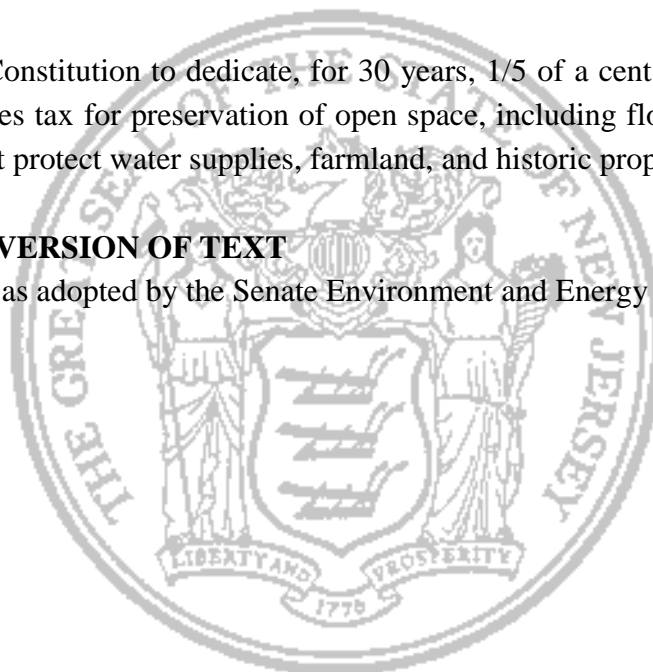
**Senators Gordon, Weinberg, Greenstein, Allen, Beach, Rice, Ruiz, Vitale
and Cunningham**

SYNOPSIS

Amends Constitution to dedicate, for 30 years, 1/5 of a cent for each dollar subject to sales tax for preservation of open space, including flood prone areas and lands that protect water supplies, farmland, and historic properties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2013)

1 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
 2 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
 3 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
 4 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
 5 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
 6 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 7 General Assembly and the Attorney General, not less than three
 8 months prior to the general election.

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 10 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
 11 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
 12 form:

13 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
 14 general election, the following:

15 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
 16 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

17 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
 18 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
 19 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
 20 square opposite the word "No."

21 b. In every municipality the following question:
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| | <p style="text-align: center;">YES</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEDICATING STATE FUNDS FOR OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to dedicate a specified amount of annual State revenues, for the next 30 years, to the preservation of open space, farmland, and historic properties? The dedicated amount would be taken from existing State revenues and would equal 0.2% of the total monies taxable under the State sales tax. This amount would equal 1/5 of a cent out of the seven cents currently collected for each dollar subject to the sales tax. The preservation of open space would include lands that protect water supplies and lands that are prone to flooding.</p> |
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| | <p>NO</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This constitutional amendment would provide a stable source of funding for the next 30 years for Green Acres and “Blue Acres” projects, and for the preservation of farmland and historic properties. The amendment would require that a certain amount of existing State revenue be used only for those purposes. The amount would equal 1/5 of a cent for each dollar subject to the State sales tax. The State sales tax is currently seven cents per dollar. Based on amounts projected to be subject to the sales tax in 2014, the amount dedicated for the first year would be approximately \$246 million.</p> <p>The Green Acres program acquires land that protects water supplies and preserves open space, including parks, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood prone or affected areas. It also funds park improvements and facilities.</p> <p>“Blue Acres” refers to properties that have been damaged by storms or storm-related flooding, that appear likely to incur such damage, or that may buffer or protect other lands from such damage. Structures on properties purchased from willing sellers are demolished, the debris is removed, and the land is preserved as open space.</p> |
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