

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 16**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
215th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Senator JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator A.R.Bucco**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes constitutional amendment to preserve right of people to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article I of the  
2 New Jersey Constitution by adding a new paragraph.

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*  
5 *General Assembly concurring):*

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7 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the  
8 State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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10 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

11

12 Amend Article I by adding a new paragraph 23 to read as  
13 follows:

14 23. Fishing, hunting, trapping and the harvesting of fish and  
15 wildlife are a valued part of the State's heritage and the right of the  
16 people to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife shall be  
17 forever preserved. Fish and wildlife shall be managed by laws and  
18 regulations that provide persons with the continued opportunity to  
19 take, by traditional means and methods, species traditionally  
20 pursued by fishermen, hunters and trappers. Fish and wildlife  
21 management shall be consistent with the State's duty to protect this  
22 heritage and its duty to conserve fish and wildlife for the  
23 recreational enjoyment of future generations, including but not  
24 limited to, fishermen, hunters and trappers. The taking of fish and  
25 wildlife by fishermen, hunters and trappers, by traditional means  
26 and methods, shall always be a preferred and available way of  
27 controlling all invasive or overpopulated species.

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29 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally  
30 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
31 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
32 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
33 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
34 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
35 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three  
36 months prior to the general election.

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38 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
39 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
40 form:

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

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

45 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
46 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are

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1 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
 2 square opposite the word "No."

3 b. In every municipality the following question:  
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	YES	TITLE  Shall the proposed amendment to Article I of the State Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature, preserving the right of the people to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife consistent with the State's duty to protect this heritage while conserving fish and wildlife, be approved?
	NO	INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT  Approval of this amendment would make fishing, hunting, trapping and the harvesting of fish and wildlife a constitutionally protected right in the State. Fish and wildlife would have to be managed by laws and regulations that provide persons with the continued opportunity to take, by traditional means and methods, species traditionally pursued by fishermen, hunters and trappers. Fish and wildlife management would have to be consistent with the State's duties to protect this heritage and to conserve fish and wildlife for the recreational enjoyment of future generations. Fishing, hunting, trapping and harvesting of fish and wildlife, by traditional means and methods, would always be the preferred and available way of controlling all invasive or overpopulated species.

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STATEMENT

9 Fishing, hunting, trapping and the harvesting of fish and wildlife  
 10 are a valued part of the State's heritage. This constitutional  
 11 amendment would preserve the right of the people to fish, hunt, trap  
 12 and harvest fish and wildlife. The amendment would also require  
 13 that fish and wildlife be managed by laws and regulations that  
 14 provide persons with the continued opportunity to take, by  
 15 traditional means and methods, species traditionally pursued by  
 16 fishermen, hunters and trappers. Fish and wildlife management  
 17 would be required to be consistent with both the State's duty to  
 18 protect its sporting heritage and its duty to conserve fish and

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1 wildlife. The amendment would also require that fishing, hunting,  
2 trapping and the harvesting of fish and wildlife, by traditional  
3 means and methods, be a preferred and available way of controlling  
4 all invasive or overpopulated species.

5 This amendment would serve as a Bill of Rights for fishermen,  
6 hunters and trappers and would preserve the right to fish, hunt, trap  
7 and harvest fish and wildlife.