

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 14**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman N.Munoz

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.

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

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

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10 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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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 Attorney General, 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,
44 a 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
47 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
48 square opposite the word "No."

1 b. In every municipality the following question:
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	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PRESERVE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO FISH, HUNT, TRAP AND HARVEST FISH AND WILDLIFE</p> <p>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?</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>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.</p>

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STATEMENT

Fishing, hunting, trapping and the harvesting of fish and wildlife are a valued part of the State’s heritage. This constitutional amendment would preserve the right of the people to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife. The amendment would also require that fish and wildlife 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 be required to be consistent with both the State's duty to protect its sporting heritage and its duty to conserve fish and

ACR14 WIRTHS, SPACE

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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.