

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 131**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2018

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator BOB SMITH**  
**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Amends Constitution to dedicate all revenues received from water consumption user fees and water diversion user fees to water quality, supply, and infrastructure projects.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VIII,  
2 Section II of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey by  
3 adding a new paragraph thereto.

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

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

10  
11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12  
13 Amend Article VIII, Section II by adding a new paragraph 10 to  
14 read as follows:

15 10. For each State fiscal year commencing on and after July 1,  
16 2019, there shall be credited to the Water Resources Protection  
17 Trust Fund, established pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
18 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2805 of 2018), all  
19 revenues collected from water consumption users fees and water  
20 diversion user fees pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
21 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2805 of 2018), all interest  
22 or other investment income earned thereon, and all sums received as  
23 repayment of principal and interest on outstanding loans made from  
24 the fund.

25 The amounts annually credited pursuant to this paragraph shall  
26 be dedicated and shall be appropriated from time to time by the  
27 Legislature only for the purposes of financing water quality, water  
28 supply, and water infrastructure projects as provided by P.L. ,  
29 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No.  
30 2805 of 2018). No more than one percent of the total revenues  
31 credited to the fund may be expended for administrative costs  
32 incurred by the State in implementing P.L. , c. (C. )  
33 (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2805 of 2018).

34 The Legislature shall not, under any pretense whatsoever,  
35 borrow, appropriate, or use the amount credited to the fund pursuant  
36 to this paragraph, or any portion thereof, for any purpose or in any  
37 manner other than as enumerated in this paragraph. The Legislature  
38 shall not, under any pretense whatsoever, borrow, appropriate, or  
39 use the amount credited to the fund pursuant to this paragraph, or  
40 any portion thereof, for the payment of the principal or interest on  
41 any general obligation bond that was approved by the voters prior to  
42 or subsequent to this paragraph becoming part of this Constitution.

43  
44 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally  
45 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
46 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
47 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
48 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
49 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the

**SCR131 B.SMITH**

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1 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three  
2 months prior to the general election.

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4 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
5 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
6 form:

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

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

11 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
12 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are  
13 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
14 square opposite the word "No."

15 b. In every municipality the following question:

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	YES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEDICATING MONEY FROM WATER CONSUMPTION USER FEES</b></p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to dedicate money collected by the State from water consumption user fees and water diversion user fees? The money would be used only to fund water projects.</p>
	NO	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>This amendment would dedicate money collected by the State from water consumption user fees and water diversion user fees. The money would be used only to fund water quality, supply, and infrastructure projects. Projects could include drought mitigation measures; the preservation of wetlands and watersheds; the interconnection, expansion, repair, or rehabilitation of public water systems; and lead remediation. The State could use the money to provide grants and loans to local governments and water companies to undertake the projects. The State could use up to one percent of the money for administrative purposes related to the projects.</p> <p>The water consumption user fee would be charged to water customers based on the amount of water they consume. The water diversion user fee would be charged to any person required to obtain a permit from the State to divert water, and be based on the amount of water diverted. Both fees would be imposed under a separate act of the Legislature.</p>

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STATEMENT

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6 This proposed constitutional amendment would dedicate all of  
7 the revenue the State collects from water consumption user fees and  
8 water diversion user fees pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
9 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 2805 of 2018) to water  
10 quality, supply, and infrastructure projects, as provided under that  
11 bill. The State could also use up to one percent of the moneys for  
12 administrative purposes related to the projects.