

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 7 of Article II of the State Constitution to prohibit drilling or exploration for oil or natural gas within sovereignty submerged lands and within a specified distance offshore and to direct the Legislature to enact enforcing legislation.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 7 of Article II of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.--

(a) It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.

(b) Those in the Everglades Agricultural Area who cause water pollution within the Everglades Protection Area or the Everglades Agricultural Area shall be primarily responsible for paying the costs of the abatement of that pollution. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms "Everglades Protection

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29 Area" and "Everglades Agricultural Area" shall have the meanings
 30 as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

31 (c) Drilling or exploration for oil or natural gas is
 32 prohibited within sovereignty submerged lands and within 200
 33 miles waterward of the coastline to the maximum extent allowed
 34 by United States or international law. The legislature shall
 35 enact legislation to enforce this subsection.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 37 placed on the ballot:

38 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

39 ARTICLE II, SECTION 7

40 PROHIBITING DRILLING OR EXPLORATION FOR OIL OR NATURAL
 41 GAS.--Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to
 42 provide that drilling or exploration for oil or natural gas
 43 shall be prohibited within sovereignty submerged lands and
 44 within 200 miles waterward of the coastline to the maximum
 45 extent allowed by United States or international law and to
 46 direct the Legislature to enact legislation enforcing this
 47 provision.