

BLUE RIBBON STATE GREEN AMENDMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA (Added in 1971)

Article I (Declaration of Rights)

§ 27 (Natural Resources And The Public Estate): “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

NEW YORK (Added in 2021)

Article I (Bill of Rights)

§ 19 (Environmental Rights): “Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.”

MONTANA (Added in 1972)

Article II (Declaration of Rights)

II. 3 (Inalienable Rights): “All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life’s basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.”

II.15 (The Rights of Persons Not Adults): “The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article[,]” including the “right to a clean and healthful environment” under II.3.

Article IX (Environmental and Natural Resources)

IX.1 (Protection and Improvement): (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations. (2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty. (3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

IX.2 (Reclamation) “(1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed. (2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose. (3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss of diversion.”

IX.3 (Water Rights): “(1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed. (2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be led to be a public use. (3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law. (4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.”

IX.4 (Cultural Resources): “The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, and recreational areas, sites, records, and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.”