



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [S7813 \(Skoufis\) / A9021 \(Buttenschon\)](#)

*Eliminates constitutional restriction forbidding Governor and LG from exercising duties while outside the state*

January 16, 2026

#### **TITLE OF RESOLUTION**

Concurrent resolution of the senate and assembly proposing an amendment to article 4 of the constitution, in relation to the gubernatorial absence provision.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it makes a long-overdue update to the State Constitution on gubernatorial absence.

Under the New York State Constitution, when the Governor is out of state, her duties automatically go to the Lieutenant Governor, and when both are out of state, their duties go to the temporary president of the Senate (the majority leader). As recently as 2009, then-Governor David Paterson [avoided leaving New York](#) to avoid triggering confusion about who would run the state, and [other states](#) have seen lieutenant governors assume gubernatorial powers when their governor leaves the state.

Passing this resolution will help New York avoid similar pitfalls and catch our Constitution up to the 21st century. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 amends article 4, section 5 of the state constitution to provide that gubernatorial duties do not automatically go to the lieutenant governor when the governor is out of state. Section 2 amends article 4, section 6 of the state constitution to provide that gubernatorial duties do not automatically go to the temporary president of the senate when both the governor and lieutenant governor are out of state. Section 3 provides that the bill must be voted on again, then approved by voters.