

SENATE, No. 2482

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 2007

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH CONIGLIO

District 38 (Bergen)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for plaques in State House to honor Hutchins F. Inge and Walter Gilbert Alexander, first African-American Senator and Assemblyman.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT providing for plaques to honor New Jersey's first African-
2 American Senator, Hutchins F. Inge, and New Jersey's first
3 African-American Assemblyman, Walter Gilbert Alexander, and
4 making an appropriation.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. In 1966, Dr. Hutchins F. Inge of Newark became the first
11 African-American to serve in the New Jersey State Senate and in
12 1921, Dr. Walter Gilbert Alexander of Orange became the first
13 African-American to serve in the New Jersey General Assembly;

14 b. At the time Senator Inge took office, he had already
15 established himself as a distinguished citizen of our State, having
16 graduated from both the University of Minnesota College of
17 Pharmacy and Howard University School of Medicine and serving
18 on the staff of Presbyterian Hospital;

19 c. Senator Inge had also served his community with distinction,
20 as a director of the Essex Urban League and the New Jersey
21 Association for Retarded Children, and as a staff physician for the
22 Newark Board of Health's Division of Child Hygiene;

23 d. During Senator Inge's tenure in the Senate, he served as the
24 chairman of the Senate Federal and Interstate Relations Committee,
25 and was a supporter of measures to aid education, transportation,
26 and housing;

27 e. Walter Gilbert Alexander was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on
28 December 3, 1880, and was the son of former slaves;

29 f. At the age of fourteen, he entered Lincoln University as the
30 youngest student in his class and the youngest student that had ever
31 matriculated at that university;

32 g. Walter Gilbert Alexander graduated from Lincoln University
33 magna cum laude in 1899, having won the Bradley Medal in natural
34 science and being honored as the Latin Salutatorian of his class;

35 h. After graduation, he entered the Boston College of Physicians
36 and Surgeons, and graduated in June 1903 after winning first prize
37 for his thesis;

38 i. A distinguished physician, he served as General Secretary and
39 later President of the National Medical Association;

40 j. During Assemblyman Alexander's tenure in the Assembly, he
41 served on committees concerning epileptics and public health, and
42 sponsored legislation addressing civil rights and health care;

43 k. In March 1921, Assemblyman Alexander was honored by his
44 fellow lawmakers who asked him to preside over the Assembly for
45 thirty minutes, while a laudatory resolution commending him on his
46 legislative service was read;

47 l. It is fitting and proper that this State honor Senator Hutchins
48 F. Inge and Assemblyman Walter Gilbert Alexander by placing

1 plaques in the State House to commemorate their tenure as
2 members of the New Jersey Legislature.

3

4 2. Plaques to honor Senator Hutchins F. Inge, New Jersey's first
5 African-American State Senator, and Assemblyman Walter Gilbert
6 Alexander, New Jersey's first African-American Assemblyman,
7 shall be displayed in the State House at Trenton.

8

9 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary
10 of State such amounts as may be necessary to effectuate the purpose
11 of section 2 of this act, subject to approval by the Director of the
12 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
13 Treasury.

14

15 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

19

20 This committee substitute provides for the display of two plaques
21 in the State House: one in honor of Senator Hutchins F. Inge, New
22 Jersey's first African-American State Senator and one in honor of
23 Assemblyman Walter Gilbert Alexander, New Jersey's first African-
24 American Assemblyman. Senator Inge, a physician from Newark,
25 served from 1966 until 1968 and was the chairman of the Senate
26 Federal and Interstate Relations Committee. Assemblyman
27 Alexander, a physician from Orange, became a member of the
28 General Assembly in 1921.