

ASSEMBLY, No. 1058

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Wisniewski and Assemblywoman Evans

SYNOPSIS

Establishes N.J. Historical Commission program for preservation and promotion of graves of significant individuals of the American Revolutionary period; appropriates \$200,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT establishing a program within the New Jersey Historical
2 Commission to encourage preservation and public awareness of
3 the graves of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and
4 other significant individuals of the American Revolutionary period,
5 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making
6 an appropriation.

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

10

11 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the freedoms
12 Americans enjoy today would not have been possible without the
13 heroic actions taken by the delegates to the second Continental
14 Congress who signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4,
15 1776; that the grave sites of five signers of the Declaration of
16 Independence, Abraham Clark, George Clymer, John Hart, Richard
17 Stockton, and John Witherspoon, are located within this State; that
18 it is the responsibility of the State of New Jersey to honor these men
19 by encouraging the preservation of their grave sites; and that it is
20 important to provide the people of New Jersey the opportunity to
21 learn about the signers and their grave sites through the placement
22 of historical markers and a public awareness campaign. The
23 Legislature further finds and declares that it is also the
24 responsibility of the State of New Jersey to honor other significant
25 individuals of the American Revolutionary period, both military and
26 civilian, including those who fought on the side of the British, who
27 are buried in New Jersey.

28 The Legislature therefore determines that it is in the public
29 interest to establish in the New Jersey Historical Commission a
30 program to encourage the preservation of the grave sites and to
31 advance public knowledge of the lives of the signers of the
32 Declaration of Independence and other significant individuals of the
33 American Revolutionary period buried in New Jersey.

34

35 2. a. There is established in the New Jersey Historical
36 Commission a program to encourage the preservation of the five
37 grave sites of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and
38 the grave sites of other significant individuals of the American
39 Revolutionary period, as determined by the New Jersey Historical
40 Commission, located in New Jersey and to promote public
41 awareness of the lives of these individuals, their role in the history
42 of United States and New Jersey, and the location of their grave
43 sites.

44 b. The program established pursuant to subsection a. of this
45 section shall consist of such activities as the commission deems
46 desirable and practicable and shall include:

47 (1) making grants for the preservation and maintenance of the
48 grave sites of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and

1 other significant individuals of the American Revolutionary period
2 and historical markers or plaques to indicate the location of these
3 grave sites available to cemetery companies or religious
4 corporations, societies or organizations that operate cemeteries,
5 civic groups, historical organizations, religious organizations,
6 veterans organizations and other non-profit organizations, counties
7 or municipalities; and

8 (2) conducting a public awareness and education campaign,
9 including printed and internet-based information, designed to
10 inform New Jersey residents and tourists of the lives of the signers
11 of the Declaration of Independence and other significant individuals
12 of the American Revolutionary period and the location of their
13 grave sites.

14 c. The New Jersey Historical Commission may employ a
15 program director and such other personnel as may be necessary to
16 implement the provisions of this act and as may be within the limits
17 of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for this
18 purpose.

19
20 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New
21 Jersey Historical Commission the sum of \$200,000 to implement
22 the provisions of the program established pursuant to section 2 of
23 this act.

24
25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

26
27
28 STATEMENT

29
30 This bill would establish a program within the New Jersey
31 Historical Commission, the purpose of which is to (1) encourage the
32 preservation of the grave sites of the signers of the Declaration of
33 Independence and other significant individuals of the American
34 Revolutionary period located in New Jersey, and (2) promote public
35 awareness of the lives of these significant individuals and the
36 location of their grave sites.

37 The program would consist of making grants for the preservation
38 and maintenance of grave sites of the signers of the Declaration of
39 Independence and other significant individuals of the American
40 Revolutionary period and for historical markers or plaques to
41 indicate the location of these grave sites available to cemetery
42 companies or religious corporations, societies or organizations that
43 operate cemeteries, civic groups, historical organizations, religious
44 organizations, veterans organizations and other non-profit
45 organizations, counties or municipalities. The program would also
46 conduct a public awareness and educational campaign, which
47 includes producing printed and internet-based informational
48 material designed to inform New Jersey residents and tourists about

A1058 GUSCIORA, GREENSTEIN

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- 1 the lives of the signers and other significant individuals of the
- 2 American Revolutionary period and the location of their grave sites.
- 3 This bill would appropriate \$200,000 to the New Jersey
- 4 Historical Commission for the implementation of this program.