

ASSEMBLY, No. 4339

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates Thomas Alva Edison as State Inventor.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT designating Thomas Alva Edison as New Jersey State
2 Inventor, and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of Revised
3 Statutes.

4
5 WHEREAS, Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor and
6 businessman, who spent more than 50 years of his life residing and
7 inventing in the State of New Jersey; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison first moved to New Jersey in 1870,
9 establishing a facility in Newark, New Jersey, and developing
10 numerous inventions, such as the electric pen, an early version of
11 the copy machine, and most importantly the quadruplex telegraph,
12 which allowed the transmission of multiple messages on the same
13 telegraph wire; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison used funds from the sale of the quadruplex
15 telegraph to relocate his operations to Menlo Park, New Jersey,
16 where he would establish a full-scale industrial research laboratory
17 and create one of his most famous inventions, the phonograph; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison continued to experiment with new technology
19 and created one of the first commercially viable incandescent light
20 bulbs; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison demonstrated his incandescent light bulb by
22 making Christie Street in Menlo Park the first street ever to be lit by
23 incandescent light on New Year's Eve, 1879; and

24 WHEREAS, The following year, Mr. Edison established the Edison
25 Electric Light Company and was commissioned to install the brass
26 chandelier with 66 light bulbs that hangs in the General Assembly
27 Chamber of the New Jersey State House; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison's famous inventions and laboratory achieved
29 global recognition, eventually earning him the title of "The Wizard
30 of Menlo Park" and attracting visitors from all over the world to
31 Menlo Park; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Edison would eventually leave Menlo Park and move
33 into a much larger facility in West Orange, New Jersey, where he
34 spent the remaining 44 years of his life improving his earlier
35 inventions and creating new inventions, such as the motion picture
36 camera and a suitable storage battery that could power an electric
37 car; and

38 WHEREAS, During Mr. Edison's career, he was awarded 1,093 United
39 States patents, 400 of them while living in Menlo Park, New Jersey;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, When Mr. Edison passed away from complications of
42 diabetes at the age of 84, on October 18, 1931, many communities
43 and corporations throughout the world commemorated his passing
44 by briefly dimming their lights; and

45 WHEREAS, Since Mr. Edison's death, the State and its residents have
46 dedicated memorials, which include the Edison Memorial Tower in
47 Menlo Park, the Menlo Park Laboratory Tablet and Memorial,
48 Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, and Edison Township in

1 Middlesex County, in honor and remembrance of Mr. Edison for
2 his accomplishments and contributions to the State of New Jersey,
3 the nation, and the world; now, therefore,

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Thomas Alva Edison is designated as New Jersey State
9 Inventor.

10
11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

12
13
14 STATEMENT

15
16 This bill designates Thomas Alva Edison as New Jersey State
17 Inventor.

18 Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor and
19 businessman, who spent more than 50 years of his life residing and
20 inventing in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Edison first moved to
21 New Jersey in 1870, establishing a facility in Newark, New Jersey,
22 and developing numerous inventions, such as the electric pen, an
23 early version of the copy machine, and most importantly the
24 quadruplex telegraph, which allowed the transmission of multiple
25 messages on the same telegraph wire.

26 Mr. Edison relocated his operations to Menlo Park, New Jersey,
27 where he would establish a full-scale industrial research laboratory
28 and create one of his most famous inventions, the phonograph. Mr.
29 Edison continued to experiment with new technology and created
30 one of the first commercially viable incandescent light bulbs. Mr.
31 Edison demonstrated his incandescent light bulb by making Christie
32 Street in Menlo Park the first street ever to be lit by incandescent
33 light on New Year's Eve, 1879. Mr. Edison's famous inventions
34 and laboratory achieved global recognition, eventually earning him
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36 all over the world to Menlo Park.

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47 accomplishments and contributions to the State of New Jersey, the
48 nation, and the world.