

SENATE, No. 2874

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Designates “Franklinite” as official mineral of State of NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S2874 OROHO

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1 AN ACT designating “Franklinite” as the official mineral of the
2 State of New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

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5 WHEREAS, The mineral Franklinite was first described in 1819 by
6 Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and

7 WHEREAS, Franklinite, with a striking black color, submetallic luster,
8 and sharp octahedral crystals, is aesthetically pleasing and makes
9 for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong
10 interest from mineral collectors around the world; and

11 WHEREAS, New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining,
12 including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at
13 Franklin and at Ogdensburg, which operated for more than 250
14 years, producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore
15 and contributing significantly to the economic vitality and cultural
16 history of the State of New Jersey and the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals
18 have been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found
19 anywhere else on Earth; and

20 WHEREAS, Though millions of tons of Franklinite, Willemite, and
21 Zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in
22 small amounts; and

23 WHEREAS, The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg
24 (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by
25 the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum,
26 and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the
28 Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the
29 World”; and

30 WHEREAS, In a poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of
31 Environmental Protection with several thousand national
32 participants, 96 percent voted in support of Franklinite as the New
33 Jersey State mineral; and

34 WHEREAS, In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and
35 historic importance of Franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to
36 designate Franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New
37 Jersey; now, therefore,

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39 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
40 of New Jersey:

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42 1. “Franklinite” is designated as the official mineral of the State
43 of New Jersey.

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45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill designates “Franklinite” as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

The mineral Franklinite was first described in 1819 by Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. With a striking black color, submetallic luster, and sharp octahedral crystals, Franklinite is aesthetically pleasing and makes for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong interest from mineral collectors around the world.

New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at Ogdensburg. These mines operated for more than 250 years, producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the State of New Jersey and the nation. Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. Though millions of tons of Franklinite, Willemite, and Zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in small amounts.

The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society.

In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World.” In a poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with several thousand national participants, 96 percent voted in support of Franklinite as the New Jersey State mineral. In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and historic importance of Franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to designate Franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.