## ASSEMBLY, No. 5074 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

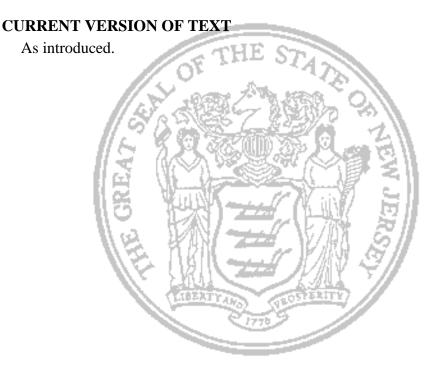
INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE District 37 (Bergen) Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY District 11 (Monmouth) Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Danielsen and Benson

## **SYNOPSIS**

Renames State's "Transgender Day of Remembrance" as "Babs Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance."



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: January 10, 2020)

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1 AN ACT concerning the State's "Transgender Dav of 2 Remembrance" and amending P.L.2017, J.R.23. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2017, J.R.23 (C.36:2-319) is amended to 8 read as follows: 1. November 20th of each year is designated as "Babs 9 Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance" in the State of New 10 Jersey to honor the memory of those persons whose lives were lost 11 12 in acts of anti-transgender violence. 13 (cf: P.L.2017, J.R.23, s.1) 14 15 2. Section 2 of P.L.2017, J.R.23 (C.36:2-320) is amended to 16 read as follows: 17 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation 18 calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe 19 "Babs Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance" with 20 appropriate activities and programs. (cf: P.L.2017, J.R.23, s.2) 21 22 23 3. This act shall take effect immediately. 24 25 26 **STATEMENT** 27 This bill would rename the State's "Transgender Day of 28 29 Remembrance," which is celebrated on November 20th of each year, as the "Babs Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance." 30 31 Barbra (Babs) Casbar Siperstein was an American transgender 32 activist. She has, for decades, been one of New Jersey's most 33 prominent and influential advocates for the rights of lesbian, gay, 34 bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. A Jersey City native, Siperstein served in the army and was a 35 successful small business owner. She was also President and board 36 37 member of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats and Vice President 38 of Garden State Equality. 39 Siperstein made history, in 2009, when she became the first 40 openly transgender member of the Democratic National Committee 41 (DNC). She later went on to be appointed to the DNC's Executive 42 Committee, where she served until 2019. 43 A lifelong advocate, Siperstein tirelessly fought for marriage 44 equality and worked to end workplace discrimination. As one of 24 45 authors of the 2009 Dallas Principles, she helped to ensure that

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in **bold-faced brackets** [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

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gender equality was a key aspect of any political agenda. She is
 also the namesake of landmark legislation allowing the State to
 issue amended birth certificates to transgender people.

4 A loving wife, mother, grandmother, partner, and friend, Babs 5 Siperstein died on February 3, 2019 at age 76. Governor Phil Murphy ordered that flags be lowered to half-staff in her honor. 6 7 Although her death represents the loss of one of the State's 8 principal voices for LGBTQ rights, Babs is remembered as a 9 trailblazer, and as a role model for the activists who have and will 10 come after her. It is fitting, therefore, for the State's Transgender 11 Day of Remembrance to be named in honor of this leading LGBTQ advocate, who has been so instrumental in helping to lead the fight 12 13 for transgender rights, and for the rights of all LGBTQ individuals 14 in this State and nation.