

SENATE, No. 542

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates High Point State Park as High Point Veterans' State Park.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/15/2018)

S542 OROHO, SINGLETON

2

1 AN ACT designating High Point State Park as High Point Veterans'
2 State Park and amending and supplementing P.L.1983, c.324.

3

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

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7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. In 1918, the New Jersey Department of Conservation and
9 Development proposed the creation "on the Kittatinny Mountains in
10 Sussex and Warren counties a great forest park for the benefit of the
11 whole people."

12 b. In 1920, Director Alfred Gaskil of the Division of Parks and
13 Forestry suggested "that the park be established as the State's
14 memorial to its sons who had made the supreme sacrifice in the
15 Great War."

16 c. In fulfillment of this plan, Colonel Anthony Kuser deeded
17 his mountaintop summer estate at High Point to the State in 1923
18 for a public park and avian sanctuary.

19 d. In November 1927, Colonel Kuser further donated \$500,000
20 to erect a granite-clad obelisk on New Jersey's highest peak to
21 honor the veterans of all wars.

22 e. The High Point Veterans' Monument was dedicated to the
23 "Glory and Honor and Eternal Memory of New Jersey's heroes by
24 land, sea, and air, in all wars of our Country" in June 1930.

25 f. Although the High Point Veterans' Monument is one of the
26 most visible and best known landmarks in the State, and is a symbol
27 of the State's parks and forests, the purpose for which it was built
28 has receded from memory, and the surrounding park is now only
29 known by the name High Point State Park.

30 g. It is therefore appropriate to rename the entire park to
31 emphasize the original purpose to which it was dedicated and to
32 respect the men and women who have given their lives to protect
33 this country.

34

35 2. (New section) a. High Point State Park is designated as
36 High Point Veterans' State Park.

37 b. The Department of Environmental Protection, through its
38 Division of Parks and Forestry, shall alter its official publications to
39 reflect this designation, and shall make expeditious efforts to
40 replace any existing signs, advertisements, or any other public
41 indicators of the park's name to reflect this designation.

42

43 3. Section 11 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-11) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 11. a. In specific regard to High Point Veterans' State Park, the
46 department shall not allow the shooting or trapping of birds on park
47 grounds, other than that of vermin, and then only by authorized
48 representatives of the State.

1 b. As Island Beach State Park is a unique recreational resource
2 and is highly valued for its topography, flora and fauna, it shall be
3 preserved, maintained and improved in such a manner as the
4 department determines will best perpetuate the present physical
5 state.

6 (cf: P.L.1983, c.324, s.11)

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8 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill would designate High Point State Park as High Point
14 Veterans' State Park.

15 In 1920 Director Alfred Gaskil of the Division of Forestry and
16 Parks suggested that the State establish a park at High Point as the
17 State's memorial to its citizens who had made the supreme sacrifice
18 in World War I. In fulfillment of this plan, Colonel Anthony Kuser
19 deeded his mountaintop summer estate at High Point to the State in
20 1923 for a public park and avian sanctuary. In November 1927,
21 Colonel Kuser further donated \$500,000 to erect a granite-clad
22 obelisk on New Jersey's highest peak to honor the veterans of all
23 wars. The High Point Veterans' Monument was dedicated in June
24 1930.

25 Although the High Point Monument is one of the most visible
26 and best known landmarks in the State, and is a symbol of the
27 State's parks and forests, the purpose for which it was built has
28 receded from memory. It is therefore appropriate to rename the
29 park to emphasize the original purpose to which it is dedicated and
30 to respect the men and women who have given their lives to protect
31 this country.