

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 542**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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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**

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on October 18, 2018, with amendments.



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

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:

6

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. <sup>1</sup>**[In fulfillment of this plan,]**<sup>1</sup> Colonel Anthony Kuser  
17 deeded his mountaintop summer estate at High Point to the State in  
18 1923 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 <sup>1</sup>**[receded from memory]** diminished over time<sup>1</sup>, and the  
29 surrounding park is <sup>1</sup>**[now]**<sup>1</sup> only known by the name High Point  
30 State Park.

31 g. It is therefore appropriate to rename the entire park to  
32 <sup>1</sup>**[emphasize the original purpose to which it was dedicated and to]**  
33 match the honoring of veterans for which the iconic monument was  
34 dedicated, and thereby show<sup>1</sup> respect <sup>1</sup>to<sup>1</sup> the men and women who  
35 have given their lives to protect this country.

36

37 2. (New section) a. High Point State Park is designated as  
38 High Point Veterans’ State Park.

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

**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 thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted October 18, 2018.

- 1       3. Section 11 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-11) is amended to  
2 read as follows:
- 3       11. a. In specific regard to High Point Veterans' State Park, the  
4 department shall not allow the shooting or trapping of birds on park  
5 grounds, other than that of vermin, and then only by authorized  
6 representatives of the State.
- 7       b. As Island Beach State Park is a unique recreational resource  
8 and is highly valued for its topography, flora and fauna, it shall be  
9 preserved, maintained and improved in such a manner as the  
10 department determines will best perpetuate the present physical  
11 state.  
12 (cf: P.L.1983, c.324, s.11)  
13
- 14       4. This act shall take effect immediately.