

SENATE, No. 1857

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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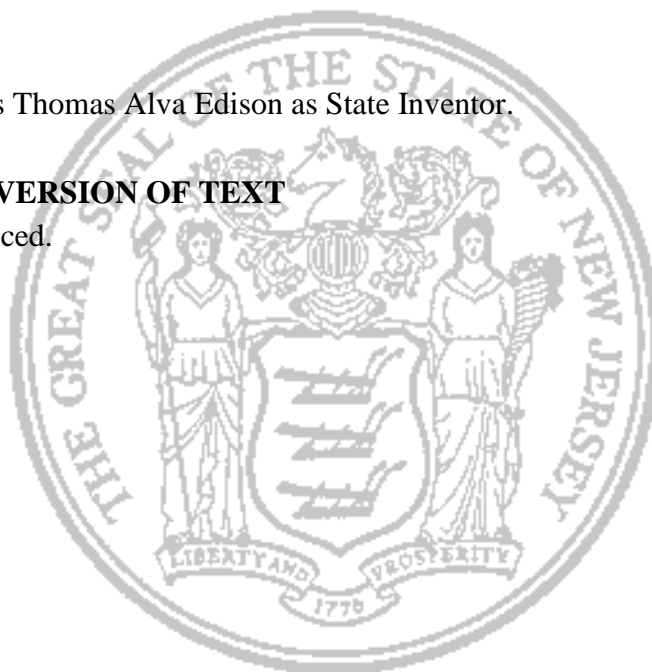
Assemblywomen Murphy and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Designates Thomas Alva Edison as State Inventor.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/26/2019)

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
12 telegraph, which allowed the transmission of multiple messages
13 on the same 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
17 laboratory and create one of his most famous inventions, the
18 phonograph; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11
12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

13
14
15 STATEMENT

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

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

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

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39 much larger facility in West Orange, New Jersey, where he would
40 spend the remaining 44 years of his life improving his earlier
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42 camera and a suitable storage battery that could power an electric car.
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44 memorials, which include the Edison Memorial Tower in Menlo Park,
45 the Menlo Park Laboratory Tablet and Memorial, Thomas Edison
46 State University in Trenton, and Edison Township in Middlesex
47 County, in honor and remembrance of Mr. Edison for his
48 accomplishments and contributions to the State of New Jersey, the
49 nation, and the world.