

[Corrected Copy]

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 55

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

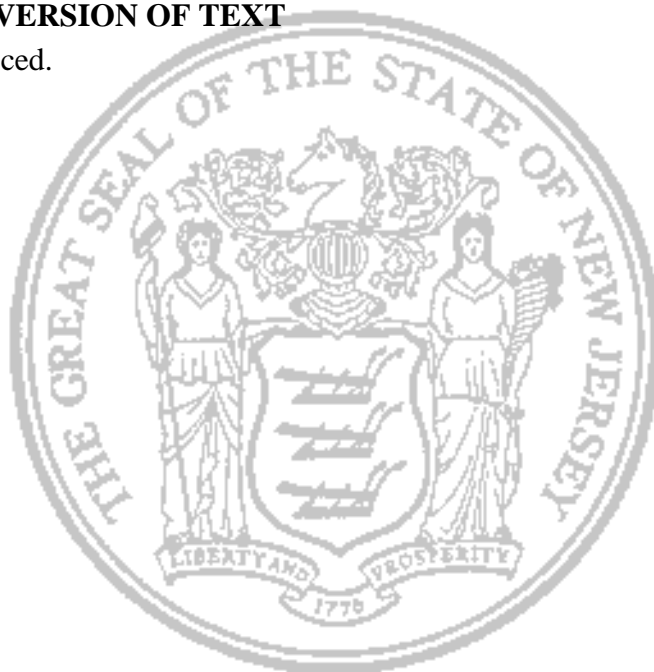
Senators Cruz-Perez, Diegnan, Singleton, Sweeney, Stack and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Congress to pass Equal Rights Amendment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2018)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to pass
2 the Equal Rights Amendment.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed
5 amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee
6 equal rights for women; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The ERA states: “Equality of rights under the law shall
8 not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on
9 account of sex - the ERA establishes within the United States
10 Constitution the unambiguous and unassailable rights of women
11 under the law”; and

12 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey suffragist leader Alice Paul, who was
13 instrumental in the passage of the 19th amendment which granted
14 women the right to vote, and Crystal Eastman authored the ERA in
15 1923. It was introduced for the first time in the United States
16 Congress that same year; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In 1972, the ERA passed the United State Congress and
18 was submitted to the state legislatures for ratification. Congress set
19 a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979, and through 1977, 35 of
20 the required 38 states had ratified the amendment; and

21 **WHEREAS**, In 1978, a joint resolution of the United States Congress
22 extended the deadline for ratification to June 30, 1982; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Five states rescinded their ratifications of the ERA prior to
24 June 30, 1982, and no other states ratified the amendment between
25 1979 and the 1982 deadline. As a result, the ERA was not adopted
26 as part of the Constitution; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The ERA has been reintroduced in every session of the
28 United States Congress since 1982. The last time it received a floor
29 vote in Congress was 1983; and

30 **WHEREAS**, On January 23, 2017 Senators Bob Menendez (D-N.J.),
31 Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Ben Cardin (D-
32 Md.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Kirsten
33 Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) reintroduced the
34 ERA in the United States Congress; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Passage of the ERA by the United States Congress and its
36 ratification by state legislatures would affirm this country’s
37 commitment to equal rights for women and introduce the idea of
38 sex equality as a fundamental principle in the United States
39 Constitution; now, therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
42 *State of New Jersey:*

43
44 1. The Legislature hereby urges the United States Congress to
45 pass the Equal Rights Amendment as reintroduced by Senators Bob
46 Menendez, Cory Booker, Sherrod Brown, Ben Cardin, Chris Coons,
47 Dianne Feinstein, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Ed Markey in order to
48 affirm this country’s commitment to equal rights for women and to

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3

1 introduce the idea of sex equality as a fundamental principle in the
2 United States Constitution.

3

4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the
6 General Assembly to each member of the New Jersey Congressional
7 delegation.

8

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This resolution urges the United States Congress to pass the
15 Equal Rights Amendment as reintroduced by Senators Bob
16 Menendez, Cory Booker, Sherrod Brown, Ben Cardin, Chris Coons,
17 Dianne Feinstein, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Ed Markey in order to
18 affirm this country's commitment to equal rights for women and to
19 introduce the idea of sex equality as a fundamental principle in the
20 United States Constitution.