SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 67

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 5, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates 150th anniversary of ratification of Fourteenth Amendment to United States Constitution.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2018)

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1	A JOINT RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th anniversary of the
2	ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
3	Constitution.
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5	WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
6	Constitution, which granted citizenship to all persons born in the
7	United States, including former slaves, and which prohibits states
8	from denying to any person the equal protection of the law or
9	denying to any person life, liberty, or property without due process
10	of law, was ratified 150 years ago in July 1868; and
11	WHEREAS, No amendment to the Constitution is cited in litigation as
12	often as the Fourteenth Amendment, and it is the basis for
13	numerous landmark Supreme Court cases; and
14	WHEREAS, Many of the amendments in the Bill of Rights, which are
15	protections against federal government action, have been applied to
16	state government action through the Fourteenth Amendment; and
17	WHEREAS, High profile Supreme Court cases over the past few
18	decades very often dealt with interpreting the Fourteenth
19	Amendment; and
20	WHEREAS, The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth
21	Amendment figures prominently in court decisions striking down
22	state-sanctioned racial and gender discrimination as, for example, in
23	public education; and
24	WHEREAS, Underlying the Supreme Court's rationale for ruling state
25	prohibitions on abortion and same-sex marriage unconstitutional is
26	the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and
2728	WHEREAS, Along with the other two post-Civil War amendments abolishing slavery and prohibiting the denial of the right to vote or
29	account of race, many scholars describe the Fourteenth
30	Amendment's ratification as America's "Second Founding"
31	because these amendments reshaped the Constitution to protect
32	fundamental rights from state government abuse in addition to
33	protections against federal government abuse; and
34	WHEREAS, Prominent among those leading the effort to transform the
35	country after the Civil War was Congressman Thaddeus Stevens of
36	Pennsylvania who, together with others, helped craft and push for
37	passage of the post-Civil War amendments; and
38	WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to
39	commemorate the 150th anniversary of ratification of the important
40	and transformative Fourteenth Amendment; now, therefore,
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42	BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
43	State of New Jersey:
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45	1. The Governor and Legislature of the State of New Jersey
46	hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the
47	Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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1	2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2	shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
3	Secretary of the Senate to the National Constitution Center.
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5	3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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This joint resolution celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Besides explicitly guaranteeing certain civil rights, the Fourteenth Amendment is the underlying basis for many of the Supreme Court's most famous decisions.

No amendment to the U.S. Constitution is cited in litigation more than the Fourteenth Amendment. Litigation on the amendment's Equal Protection clause led to rulings on discrimination, as in those striking down laws allowing segregated education, and the amendment's Due Process Clause is the source for the Court's rulings applying many of the protections in the Bill of Rights to state government action.

The importance of the amendment is captured in the fact that scholars describe its passage as the "Second Founding" of America. Along with the other post-Civil War Amendments banning slavery and prohibiting the denial of the right to vote on account of race, the Fourteenth Amendment transformed the U.S. Constitution to one that protects fundamental rights from state as well as federal government abuse.