

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 125

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress and President of United States to eliminate funding disparities among land-grant institutions of higher education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



AR125 WIMBERLY

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1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Congress and the President of  
2       the United States to enact legislation to eliminate the funding  
3       disparities among land-grant institutions of higher education.  
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5   **WHEREAS**, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)  
6       have been providing a crucial means for the educational and  
7       economic advancement of African-Americans for more than a  
8       century; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, By serving the African-American community, HBCUs  
10      serve all Americans by preparing gifted young men and women  
11      to achieve their dreams and succeed in their life goals; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, Today, there are more than 100 HBCUs in the United  
13      States, all of which embody many of our most deeply cherished  
14      values such as equality, diversity, opportunity, and hard work;  
15      and  
16   **WHEREAS**, HBCUs have their roots in the federal Morrill Act of  
17      1862, which required that each state have at least one land-grant  
18      institution. Historically, most of these institutions have been  
19      predominantly white. Since African-Americans were barred  
20      from many of these land-grant institutions, a second Morrill Act  
21      was adopted in 1890 requiring states to show that race was not a  
22      factor in the admission criteria of land-grant institutions or else  
23      they would lose federal funding; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, Instead of unifying the institutions, some states opted to  
25      create separate land-grant colleges for African-Americans,  
26      which allowed those states to keep segregated colleges and at  
27      the same time not lose federal funding; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, 1890 land-grant institutions—HBCUs—have largely  
29      received less funding per student when compared to their 1862  
30      land-grant counterparts, in some instances receiving only half  
31      the funding given to other institutions; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, It should be a public policy goal of the federal  
33      government to enact laws aimed at eliminating the existing  
34      funding inequity between HBCUs and 1862 land-grant  
35      institutions; and  
36   **WHEREAS**, By increasing funding to HBCUs, the federal  
37      government would be providing vital support to these  
38      institutions as they continue their endeavor to improve the  
39      quality of life of African-Americans by providing them with  
40      high quality education; and  
41   **WHEREAS**, It is important, therefore, that Congress and the  
42      President of the United States enact legislation which eliminates  
43      the existing funding inequities between HBCUs and 1862 land-  
44      grant institutions in order to have equal education opportunity  
45      through equal funding for all land-grant institutions; now,  
46      therefore,

AR125 WIMBERLY

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
2 *Jersey:*

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4       1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey  
5 respectfully urges Congress and the President of the United States  
6 to enact legislation aimed at eliminating the existing funding  
7 inequity between Historically Black Colleges and Universities,  
8 which are the 1890 land-grant institutions of higher education, and  
9 the 1862 land-grant institutions of higher education.

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11       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
12 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
13 President and Vice-President of the United States, the Majority and  
14 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
15 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and  
16 to every member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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21       This resolution respectfully urges Congress and the President of  
22 the United States to enact legislation aimed at eliminating the existing  
23 funding inequity between Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
24 (HBCUs), which are the 1890 land-grant institutions of higher  
25 education, and the 1862 land-grant institutions of higher education.

26       There are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States and they have  
27 largely received less funding per student when compared to their 1862  
28 land-grant institution counterparts. This resolution urges that this  
29 discrepancy be eliminated.