

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 136**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 1997

**By Senators DiFRANCESCO and LYNCH**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** commemorating the 50th anniversary of the  
2       1947 New Jersey Constitution.  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Constitution is the cornerstone of our State  
5       government and the vehicle of our life as a State; and  
6   **WHEREAS**, The citizens of New Jersey look to their Constitution for the  
7       embodiment of principles designed to guarantee basic individual rights and  
8       produce a well-ordered frame of State government; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, The landmark year of 1947 has been described as a “Dry  
10       Revolution” in the history of New Jersey where the citizens of our State,  
11       through their elected representatives, exercised their right to alter their form  
12       of government by calling a constitutional convention; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll commenced the 1947 constitutional  
14       convention beginning on the twelfth of June, where 81 devout, wise and  
15       just citizens including lawyers, bankers, teachers, ministers, judges,  
16       journalists, brokers, industrialists, homemakers and legislators convened  
17       unpaid for three months in the Rutgers University gymnasium; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, The delegates of the 1947 constitutional convention, building on at  
19       least six years of groundwork initiated by former governors and public-  
20       spirited advocates of constitutional reform, designed a glorious, succinct  
21       charter providing for a more efficient and effective operation of  
22       government, a unified court system, a strong, central executive office, anti-  
23       segregation in public schools, the right to collectively bargain and equal  
24       rights for all persons; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, On November 4, 1947, the citizens of the State of New Jersey  
26       ratified the Constitution by an overwhelming consensus, 653,096 to  
27       184,632, as majorities in 20 of the State’s 21 counties approved the  
28       charter; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Today, the 1947 charter is regarded as one of the most innovative  
30       and influential state constitutions in the 20th century and as one of the  
31       crowning achievements of modern New Jersey political history; now,  
32       therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*  
2 *Assembly concurring):*

3

4       1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey commemorates the 50th  
5 anniversary of the 1947 New Jersey Constitution, recognizes its distinction as  
6 a model, forward-looking charter that has provided the framework for modern  
7 State government in New Jersey and pays tribute to the inspirational efforts of  
8 the men and women who molded the celebrated charter.

9

10       2. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey calls upon the good citizens  
11 of New Jersey to join in observing the 50th anniversary of its ratification.

12

13

14

STATEMENT

15

16       This concurrent resolution commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1947  
17 New Jersey Constitution and recognizes its distinction as a model charter that  
18 has provided the framework for modern State government in New Jersey.  
19 The 81 delegates to the 1947 constitutional convention revised the State  
20 Constitution to provide for a unified court system, a strong, centralized  
21 governor and equal rights for all persons. New Jersey's modern Constitution  
22 has been heralded as a pathbreaking charter and a model for states across the  
23 nation.

24

25

26

\_\_\_\_\_

27

28 Commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1947 New Jersey Constitution.