

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 268

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Condemns Governor of Georgia for signing into law restrictive changes to Georgia's elections process.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning the Governor of Georgia,
2 Brian P. Kemp, for signing legislation that includes restrictive
3 changes to the State of Georgia’s elections process.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, While the State of New Jersey has enacted legislation to
6 increase access to voting and permit more citizens of New Jersey
7 with the opportunity to exercise the right to vote, other states
8 throughout the country have done the opposite and enacted anti-
9 democratic legislation that disenfranchises voters in their states; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The Governor of Georgia signed into law Senate Bill 202
11 during the 2021 legislative session, a 98-page omnibus bill that
12 includes restrictive changes to the State of Georgia’s elections
13 process and undermines democracy in Georgia; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The legislation, which was rushed through both chambers
15 of the Georgia General Assembly, was designed to severely restrict
16 voting in Georgia and disenfranchise Black and brown citizens of
17 Georgia who already face barriers to the ballot box; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The legislation takes away local control of elections,
19 disenfranchises out-of-precinct voters, makes runoff elections
20 difficult to administer, limits the accessibility of ballot drop boxes,
21 establishes strict voter identification requirements for absentee
22 voting, prohibits election officials from mailing absentee ballot
23 applications to all voters, and makes offering food and water to
24 voters waiting in line to vote a criminal offense; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Specifically, among other restrictions, the legislation
26 shortens the absentee ballot request period from 180 days before
27 election day to 78 days before election day, shortens the runoff
28 elections timeframe from nine weeks to 28 days after election day,
29 requires ballot drop boxes to be placed inside early voting locations
30 thereby limiting 24-hour access, caps the number of ballot drop
31 boxes to one per 100,000 active voters in the county or one for every
32 early voting location whichever is smaller, which results in a
33 significant reduction in ballot drop boxes in certain urban counties,
34 and prohibits the Secretary of State from serving as chair of the State
35 Board of Elections; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Major United States companies and sports teams have
37 publicly condemned the controversial law, including top executives
38 at Georgia-headquartered Coca-Cola and Delta Air Lines, the Atlanta
39 Hawks basketball team and the Atlanta Falcons football team, as well
40 as executives at JPMorgan Chase, CITI, and Microsoft; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The legislation, also known as “Jim Crow 2.0” by opponents
42 of the law, represents a massive and unabashed assault on voting
43 rights unlike anything the nation has seen since the Jim Crow era;
44 and
45 **WHEREAS**, The act of voting is sacred and must be accessible to all
46 eligible voters; and
47 **WHEREAS**, This House supports improving and expanding access to
48 voting and opposes any efforts throughout the United States to

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1 undermine democracy and the elections process in any state and in
2 any election; now, therefore,

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
5 *Jersey:*

7 1. This House condemns the Governor of Georgia, Brian P. Kemp,
8 for signing into law Senate Bill 202 during the 2021 legislative
9 session, a bill that includes restrictive changes to the State of
10 Georgia's elections process that disproportionately impact
11 communities of color and undermines the elections process in
12 Georgia.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor of Georgia, the Georgia Secretary of State, the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives, the Governor of New Jersey, and each member of the United States Congress elected from the State of Georgia and the State of New Jersey.

24 STATEMENT

26 This resolution condemns the Governor of Georgia for signing
27 into law restrictive changes to Georgia's elections process.

28 While the State of New Jersey has enacted legislation to increase
29 access to voting and permit more citizens of New Jersey the
30 opportunity to exercise the right to vote, other states throughout the
31 union have done the opposite and enacted anti-democratic legislation
32 that disenfranchises voters in their states. On March 25, 2021, the
33 Governor of Georgia signed into law Senate Bill 202 during the 2021
34 legislative session, a 98-page omnibus bill that includes restrictive
35 changes to the State of Georgia's elections process and undermines
36 democracy in the Georgia.

The legislation, which was rushed through both chambers of the Georgia General Assembly, was designed to severely restrict voting in Georgia and disenfranchise Black and brown citizens of Georgia who already face barriers to the ballot box. The legislation takes away local control of elections, restricts absentee voting, disenfranchises out-of-precinct voters, makes runoff elections difficult to administer, limits the accessibility of ballot drop boxes, and makes offering food and water to voters waiting in line to vote a criminal offense. As a result of the undemocratic law, major U.S. companies and sports teams have publicly condemned the controversial law, including top executives at Georgia-headquartered Coca-Cola and Delta Air Lines, the Atlanta Hawks basketball team

1 and the Atlanta Falcons football team, as well as executives at
2 JPMorgan Chase, CITI, and Microsoft.

3 The act of voting is scared and must be accessible to all eligible
4 voters. This House supports improving and expanding access to
5 voting and opposes any efforts throughout the United States to
6 undermine democracy and the elections process in any state and in
7 any election. This House joins major U.S. companies, nonprofit
8 organizations, and other governmental units in condemning the
9 Governor of Georgia for signing SB 202 into law.