

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 81

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Calabrese and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to pass “Community Parks Revitalization Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2021)**

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to pass  
2       the federal “Community Parks Revitalization Act.”

3  
4   **WHEREAS**, The federal “Community Parks Revitalization Act,” most  
5       recently introduced in the United States House of Representatives  
6       as H.R. 343 on January 5, 2017, would require the Secretary of  
7       Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to carry out a community  
8       revitalization program consisting of federal grants to eligible local  
9       governments; and

10   **WHEREAS**, Any applicant for a grant under the “Community Parks  
11       Revitalization Act” would be required to submit to the HUD  
12       Secretary evidence of its commitment to ongoing planning,  
13       rehabilitation, service, operation, and maintenance programs for its  
14       park and recreation systems; and

15   **WHEREAS**, The legislation includes a safeguard provision to prevent  
16       the misuse of funds by prohibiting conversion, without HUD  
17       approval, of any property improved or developed with assistance  
18       provided pursuant to the “Community Parks Revitalization Act,”  
19       for uses other than for public recreation; and

20   **WHEREAS**, The legislation provides the HUD Secretary with  
21       discretion to award such grants to certain communities which are in  
22       need but do not technically meet the criteria to be awarded a grant  
23       under the proposed program; and

24   **WHEREAS**, Public parks and recreation areas are vital to the  
25       development and maintenance of municipalities throughout the  
26       State, though State funding is limited with respect to creating and  
27       maintaining public recreational areas; and

28   **WHEREAS**, Congress is urged to enact the “Community Parks  
29       Revitalization Act,” or substantially similar legislation, in order to  
30       provide federal grant opportunities to New Jersey communities that  
31       are in need of new or updated public recreation areas; now,  
32       therefore,

33  
34       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
35       *Jersey:*

36  
37       1. The General Assembly respectfully urges Congress to pass  
38       the “Community Parks Revitalization Act,” most recently  
39       introduced in the United States House of Representatives as  
40       H.R. 343, or substantially similar legislation, in order to provide  
41       federal grant opportunities to New Jersey communities that are in  
42       need of new or updated public recreation areas.

43  
44       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
45       shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to all  
46       members of the New Jersey congressional delegation and the  
47       Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

STATEMENT

This resolution respectfully urges Congress to enact the federal “Community Parks Revitalization Act,” most recently introduced in the United States House of Representatives as H.R. 343 on January 5, 2017 or substantially similar legislation. Public parks and recreation areas are vital to the development and maintenance of municipalities throughout the State.

The proposed federal “Community Parks Revitalization Act” would require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to carry out a community revitalization program consisting of federal grants to eligible local governments. Any applicant for a grant under the “Community Parks Revitalization Act” would have to submit to the Secretary evidence of its commitment to ongoing planning, rehabilitation, service, operation, and maintenance programs for its park and recreation systems. Such grants could benefit communities throughout New Jersey.

The legislation also includes a safeguard to prevent the misuse of funds by prohibiting the conversion, without HUD approval, of any property improved or developed with assistance provided pursuant to the “Community Parks Revitalization Act,” for uses other than for public recreation.