

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 18**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senator Johnson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Haider,
Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Speight, Lampitt and Mosquera**

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor, BPU, and certain Commissioners to increase female, minority, and veteran-owned small business participation in contracts awarded with certain federal funds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee with technical review.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/26/2023)

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Governor, Board of Public
2 Utilities, and certain Commissioners to take actions to increase
3 female, minority, and veteran-owned small business participation
4 in procurements supported by funding from the federal
5 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
6
7 **WHEREAS**, On November 15, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the \$1.2
8 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub.L.
9 117–58; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The IIJA is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to renew the
11 nation’s long-term commitment to rebuilding American
12 competitiveness through its critical infrastructure; and
13 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the IIJA provides at least \$13.1 billion to
14 address the State’s most pressing transportation needs, including the
15 Gateway Project; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The State is expected to receive \$6.8 billion to invest in
17 highways and roads, \$1.1 billion for bridge repairs, \$104 million for
18 electric vehicle initiatives, \$24 million for enhancing ferry services,
19 \$4.1 billion to improve New Jersey’s transit system, and substantial
20 additional sums to address climate resiliency, broadband Internet
21 access, and water and electric power infrastructure; and
22 **WHEREAS**, These investments will result in a significant number of jobs
23 and opportunities for local businesses and it is imperative that federal
24 resources are used to benefit all residents in the most fair and
25 equitable manner; and
26 **WHEREAS**, A recent analysis by the Brookings Institution indicates that
27 nationally people of color represent about 40 percent of the
28 population, but only 20 percent of the nation’s 5.6 million business
29 owners with employees. The nation could have millions more
30 businesses if women and minorities became entrepreneurs at a
31 comparable rate to the country as a whole; and,
32 **WHEREAS**, A fair and equitable expenditure of infrastructure funds
33 requires affirmative efforts to overcome the gap in female and
34 minority business ownership and other factors that have prevented or
35 inhibited participation by small businesses and minority, women, and
36 veteran-owned business enterprises in the procurement opportunities
37 offered by the State; and
38 **WHEREAS**, For the fiscal years of 2020-2022, the Department of
39 Transportation has a 13.23 percent participation rate and New Jersey
40 Transit has a 21.87 percent participation rate for the award of
41 federally-funded transportation contracts to disadvantaged business
42 enterprises. These rates were set via methodology required pursuant
43 to federal legislation; however, the population of the State that comes
44 from those disadvantaged backgrounds remains well in excess of the
45 targets; now, therefore,
46
47 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
48 General Assembly concurring):

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1 1. The Legislature of New Jersey respectfully urges the
2 Governor, the Commissioners of the Board of Public Utilities and
3 State departments receiving federal infrastructure funds under the
4 federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub.L. 117–58, to
5 renew their commitment to female, minority, and veteran-owned
6 small businesses, by increasing outreach, transparency, and
7 monitoring of procurement practices and work to ensure that these
8 businesses receive opportunities and contract awards for the funds
9 provided in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act at
10 levels not just reflective of federal requirements, but the full diversity
11 of the State population.

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13 2. Copies of this resolution as filed with the Secretary of State,
14 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
15 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, each Commissioner of the
16 Board of Public Utilities, and each Commissioner of a State
17 department receiving funding under the federal Infrastructure
18 Investment and Jobs Act.