

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 118

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2023

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Joint Resolution No. 118.

As amended by the committee, this resolution commemorates July 5 of each year as Larry Doby Day in New Jersey.

Lawrence “Larry” Eugene Doby was an extraordinary high school athlete from Paterson, New Jersey who went on to become a pioneer in the desegregation of professional baseball. He quickly broke records being named to seven All-Star Games, winning two American League home run titles, and in 1948 joined Satchel Paige in being the first African American to win a Major League World Series. He became only the second African American manager in Major League Baseball with his appointment in 1978.

Larry Doby was more than just an outstanding ball player: Mr. Doby was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II, a steward of New Jersey’s urban youth, and an example of dignity and grace in the face of adversity until his passing in 2003.

Mr. Doby has been recognized by Congress with a Gold Medal for significant contributions to civil rights and wartime service. The City of Paterson has recognized Mr. Doby by commemorating a day in his honor. As 2023 marks the 76th anniversary of Mr. Doby breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball and the completion of the renovation of his Negro Leagues playing field, it is fitting New Jersey commemorates Larry Doby with a day in his honor.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 118 (1R) is identical to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 221 (1R) of 2022-2023.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

These amendments update to the year 2023 a reference to the completion of the Hinchliffe Stadium renovation in Paterson, home of the Negro Leagues where Mr. Doby began his career, which year also constitutes the 76th anniversary of Mr. Doby entering Major League Baseball.