

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 58**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey State Park Service to establish visitor's center at Princeton Battlefield State Park.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee with technical review.



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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the New Jersey State Park
2 Service to establish a visitor’s center at Princeton Battlefield
3 State Park.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The Princeton Battlefield is a nationally significant historic
6 State Park, the grounds of which witnessed a highly significant
7 battle in the American Revolutionary War, and is deserving of a
8 visitor’s center to showcase its importance to New Jersey and
9 American history; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The Battle of Princeton, on January 3, 1777, ended a 10-
11 day long campaign of battles between General George
12 Washington’s Continental Army, the hired Germanic auxiliary
13 troops, and the British military forces, known as the “Ten Crucial
14 Days”, which began with the famous December 25, 1776 crossing
15 of the Delaware River by the Continental Army; and
16 **WHEREAS**, General George Washington and the Continental Army
17 secured a culminating victory of the 10-day campaign, ultimately
18 leading to the securing of New Jersey from British control for the
19 remainder of the war; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The fighting at the Battle of Princeton resulted in the
21 mortal wounding of General Hugh Mercer, now the namesake of
22 Mercer County, in which many important New Jersey towns, such
23 as Trenton and Princeton, are located; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The State Park featuring the Princeton Battlefield contains
25 other significant elements of the story of the historic battle, such as
26 the Clarke House, the Mercer Oak, the Princeton Battle Monument,
27 and the Colonnade and Gravesite; and
28 **WHEREAS**, In 2012, the Princeton Battlefield was named by the
29 National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America’s most
30 endangered historical places, and the State Park still encounters
31 preservation problems today; and
32 **WHEREAS**, A sufficient educational and interpretive resource center
33 for such a unique and consequential American historical treasure is
34 lacking; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Establishing a visitor’s center at the Princeton Battlefield
36 would greatly enhance the public’s learning, understanding, and
37 interpretation of the site’s importance to New Jersey and American
38 political, cultural, social, and military history, as well as encourage
39 more awareness and support for preserving the site for generations
40 to come; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The State Park Service’s consultation with the Princeton
42 Battlefield Society on the development and design of the visitor’s
43 center is vital to create the best possible space for both educators
44 and the public; and
45 **WHEREAS**, By enabling, encouraging, and collaborating with private
46 sector donors to help raise funds for part of the development and

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1 maintenance costs of the visitor's center, the State Park Service
2 could expedite prospects for further enhancing the educational,
3 commemorative, and tourism potential of the Princeton Battlefield
4 as a leading New Jersey destination; now, therefore,

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

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9 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the New
10 Jersey State Park Service to build a visitor's center on the Princeton
11 Battlefield State Park.

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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 Commissioner of the New Jersey
16 Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor of New
17 Jersey.