

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 115**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

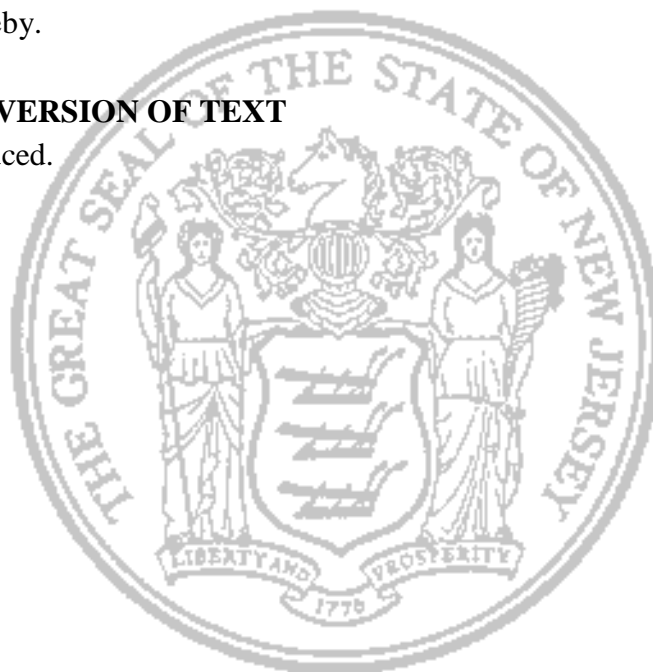
Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Administrator of EPA to expedite cleanup of Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and provide for temporary relocation of residents affected thereby.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/24/2017)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the Administrator of
2 the United States Environmental Protection Agency to expedite
3 cleanup of the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and
4 provide for the temporary relocation of residents affected
5 thereby.
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The E.C. Electroplating Corporation conducted operations
8 in the City of Garfield, New Jersey, from the 1930s until 2009; and
9 **WHEREAS**, In 1983 a partially buried vertical storage tank at the E.C.
10 Electroplating property failed, releasing an estimated 3,640 gallons
11 of chromic acid directly into the shallow aquifer and deeper
12 bedrock aquifer; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Cleanup efforts by the E.C. Electroplating Corporation
14 were terminated in 1984, less than one year after the spill, and at a
15 time when more than 70 percent of the contamination was not yet
16 extracted from the site; and
17 **WHEREAS**, After 10 years of investigation, the United States
18 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finally recognized the
19 Garfield Ground Water Contamination site as one of the most
20 hazardous in the nation by adding it to the National Priorities List
21 pursuant to the “Comprehensive Environmental Response,
22 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980,” 42 U.S.C. s.9605; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The Garfield Ground Water Contamination site is located
24 in an area of mixed residential and commercial use in the City of
25 Garfield and is marked by a chromium groundwater plume that
26 extends westward from the E.C. Electroplating property to the
27 Passaic River; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The chromium groundwater plume is now suspected of
29 having migrated across the Passaic River to areas within the City of
30 Passaic and EPA officials are currently investigating these areas for
31 contamination; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The contamination has already resulted in the seepage of
33 hexavalent chromium into the basements of a growing number of
34 homes and businesses in the City of Garfield; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Hexavalent chromium is extremely toxic and is known to
36 cause cancer and nervous system damage; and
37 **WHEREAS**, As a result of the severe and widespread pollution
38 throughout the contaminated community, property values have so
39 declined that many residents who wish to evacuate cannot sell their
40 homes, rendering any chance of independent evacuations a financial
41 impossibility; and
42 **WHEREAS**, With its recent designation as a site on the National
43 Priorities List, the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site is
44 now eligible for federal funding to be used for cleanup efforts and
45 related costs, including costs associated with the temporary
46 relocation of those residents affected by the contamination; now,
47 therefore,

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

3
4 1. The Administrator of the United States Environmental
5 Protection Agency is respectfully memorialized to take all
6 appropriate actions to facilitate the expeditious cleanup of the
7 Garfield Ground Water Contamination site. The Administrator is
8 further memorialized to develop and implement a plan that would
9 provide funding for the temporary relocation of any residents on or
10 around the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site who are at
11 risk of being affected by the contamination.

12
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 President or Vice President of the
16 United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental
17 Protection Agency, each member of the United States Congress
18 elected from this State, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey
19 Department of Environmental Protection.

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21

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STATEMENT

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24 This concurrent resolution memorializes the Administrator of the
25 United States Environmental Protection Agency to take all
26 appropriate actions to facilitate the expeditious cleanup of the
27 Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and to develop and
28 implement a plan that would provide funding for the temporary
29 relocation of any residents on or around the site who are at risk of
30 being affected by the contamination.

31 In 1983 a partially buried vertical storage tank failed at an
32 electroplating facility located in the City of Garfield, releasing an
33 estimated 3,640 gallons of chromic acid directly into the shallow
34 aquifer and deeper bedrock aquifer. The contaminated site is
35 located in an area of mixed residential and commercial use in the
36 City of Garfield and is marked by a substantial chromium
37 groundwater plume, which is now suspected of possibly having
38 migrated under the Passaic River to areas in the City of Passaic.

39 The contamination has already resulted in the seepage of
40 hexavalent chromium into the basements of a growing number of
41 homes and businesses. Hexavalent chromium is extremely toxic
42 and is known to cause cancer and nervous system damage. With its
43 recent designation as a Superfund site, the Garfield Ground Water
44 Contamination site is now eligible for federal funding to be used for
45 cleanup efforts and related costs, including costs associated with the
46 temporary relocation of those innocent residents affected by the
47 contamination.