

ASSEMBLY, No. 5074

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Danielsen
and Benson**

SYNOPSIS

Renames State's "Transgender Day of Remembrance" as "Babs Siperstein
Transgender Day of Remembrance."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: January 10, 2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the State's "Transgender Day of
2 Remembrance" and amending P.L.2017, J.R.23.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2017, J.R.23 (C.36:2-319) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. November 20th of each year is designated as "Babs
10 Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance" in the State of New
11 Jersey to honor the memory of those persons whose lives were lost
12 in acts of anti-transgender violence.

13 (cf: P.L.2017, J.R.23, s.1)

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15 2. Section 2 of P.L.2017, J.R.23 (C.36:2-320) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
18 calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe
19 "Babs Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance" with
20 appropriate activities and programs.

21 (cf: P.L.2017, J.R.23, s.2)

22

23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

27

28 This bill would rename the State's "Transgender Day of
29 Remembrance," which is celebrated on November 20th of each
30 year, as the "Babs Siperstein Transgender Day of Remembrance."

31 Barbra (Babs) Casbar Siperstein was an American transgender
32 activist. She has, for decades, been one of New Jersey's most
33 prominent and influential advocates for the rights of lesbian, gay,
34 bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. A
35 Jersey City native, Siperstein served in the army and was a
36 successful small business owner. She was also President and board
37 member of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats and Vice President
38 of Garden State Equality.

39 Siperstein made history, in 2009, when she became the first
40 openly transgender member of the Democratic National Committee
41 (DNC). She later went on to be appointed to the DNC's Executive
42 Committee, where she served until 2019.

43 A lifelong advocate, Siperstein tirelessly fought for marriage
44 equality and worked to end workplace discrimination. As one of 24
45 authors of the 2009 Dallas Principles, she helped to ensure that

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 gender equality was a key aspect of any political agenda. She is
2 also the namesake of landmark legislation allowing the State to
3 issue amended birth certificates to transgender people.

4 A loving wife, mother, grandmother, partner, and friend, Babs
5 Siperstein died on February 3, 2019 at age 76. Governor Phil
6 Murphy ordered that flags be lowered to half-staff in her honor.
7 Although her death represents the loss of one of the State's
8 principal voices for LGBTQ rights, Babs is remembered as a
9 trailblazer, and as a role model for the activists who have and will
10 come after her. It is fitting, therefore, for the State's Transgender
11 Day of Remembrance to be named in honor of this leading LGBTQ
12 advocate, who has been so instrumental in helping to lead the fight
13 for transgender rights, and for the rights of all LGBTQ individuals
14 in this State and nation.