

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 127**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

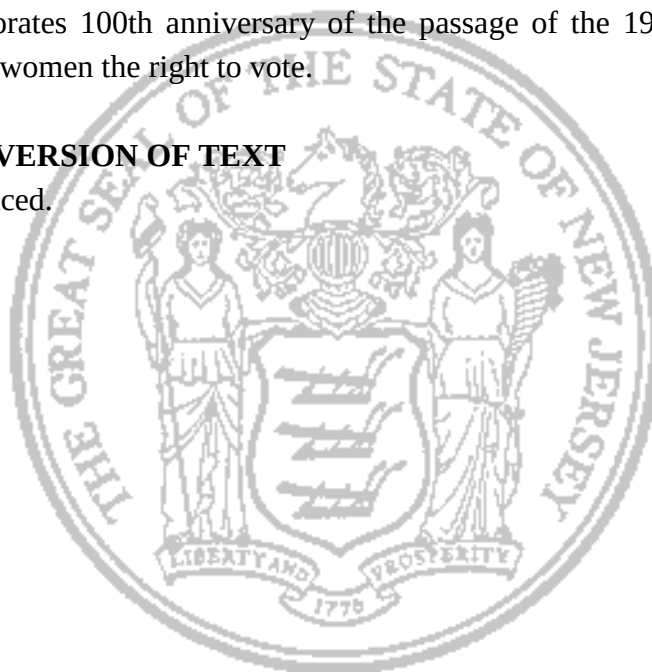
**Assemblywomen Speight, Jimenez, Vainieri Huttie, Assemblymen  
Peterson, Giblin, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Quijano, Lampitt,  
Assemblyman Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Commemorates 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** commemorating the 100th  
2   anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing  
3   women the right to vote.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage  
6   of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's  
7   constitutional right to vote; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity  
9   to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its  
10   relevance to the issues of equal rights today; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, Achieving the passage of the 19th amendment required a  
12   lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and  
13   protest; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of  
15   woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and  
16   practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans  
17   considered a radical change of the Constitution; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, In the 1800s, women organized, petitioned, and picketed to  
19   win the right to vote, but it took them decades to accomplish their  
20   purpose; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, Between 1878, when the amendment was first introduced  
22   in Congress, and August 18, 1920, when it was ratified, champions  
23   of voting rights for women worked tirelessly, but strategies for  
24   achieving their goal varied; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Some pursued a strategy of passing suffrage acts in each  
26   state—nine western states adopted woman suffrage legislation by  
27   1912; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, Others challenged male-only voting laws in the courts.  
29   Militant suffragists used tactics such as parades, silent vigils, and  
30   hunger strikes. Often supporters met fierce resistance, and  
31   opponents to a woman's right to vote heckled, jailed, and  
32   sometimes physically abused the suffragists; and  
33   **WHEREAS**, By 1916, almost all of the major suffrage organizations  
34   were united behind the goal of a constitutional amendment. When  
35   New York adopted woman suffrage in 1917 and President Wilson  
36   changed his position to support an amendment in 1918, the political  
37   balance began to shift; and  
38   **WHEREAS**, On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the  
39   amendment, and two weeks later, the United States Senate  
40   followed; and  
41   **WHEREAS**, When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the  
42   amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment passed its final  
43   hurdle of obtaining the agreement of three-fourths of the states.  
44   Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification on  
45   August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate  
46   forever; and

- 1   **WHEREAS**, One of the most influential of the militant suffragists was  
2       Alice Paul, who was born on January 11, 1885 to Quaker parents in  
3       Mount. Laurel, New Jersey; and
- 4   **WHEREAS**, Alice Paul dedicated her life to the single cause of securing  
5       equal rights for all women; and
- 6   **WHEREAS**, In 1916, Paul and her followers formed the National  
7       Woman’s Party (NWP). The NWP organized “Silent Sentinels” to  
8       stand outside the White House holding banners inscribed with  
9       incendiary phrases directed toward President Wilson; and
- 10   **WHEREAS**, The “Silent Sentinel” protests led to the mass arrest of  
11       suffragists who staged hunger strikes and endured physical abuse  
12       and unsanitary conditions while in prison; and
- 13   **WHEREAS**, These actions of defiance by the suffragists, spearheaded  
14       by Paul, and the public outcry about the prison abuse they suffered,  
15       convinced President Wilson to reverse his position on a woman’s  
16       right to vote and directly led to the passage of the 19th amendment;  
17       and
- 18   **WHEREAS**, The 19th Amendment is celebrated as a major milestone  
19       made possible by decades of suffragists’ relentless political  
20       engagement, yet the struggle for voting rights did not end with the  
21       ratification of the 19th Amendment; and
- 22   **WHEREAS**, The 100th anniversary of the amendment’s passage  
23       reminds the citizens in the State of New Jersey that the right to  
24       vote, which is basic to our understanding of democracy, is not  
25       always guaranteed; and
- 26   **WHEREAS**, In honor of the struggle of Alice Paul and all the  
27       suffragists who fought for a woman’s right to vote and the passage  
28       of the 19th Amendment, the Secretary of State is authorized to  
29       establish goals and implement programs to inspire every woman  
30       residing in the State to register and exercise their right to vote; now,  
31       therefore,
- 32
- 33       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
34       *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*
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- 36       1. The Governor and Legislature hereby commemorate the  
37       100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed  
38       women the right to vote, and authorizes the Secretary of State to  
39       establish goals and implement programs to inspire every women  
40       residing in the State to register and exercise their right to vote.
- 41
- 42       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a  
43       proclamation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passage  
44       of the 19th Amendment.
- 45
- 46       3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,

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1 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary  
2 of the Senate to the New Jersey Chapter of the National  
3 Organization for Women.

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**STATEMENT**

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8 This concurrent resolution commemorates the 100th anniversary  
9 of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women the right to vote,  
10 and authorizes the Secretary of State to establish goals and  
11 implement programs to inspire every women residing in the State to  
12 register and exercise their right to vote.