

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 208**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Condemns Hong Kong national security law passed by People's Republic of China on June 30, 2020.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning the Hong Kong national
2 security law passed by the People’s Republic of China on June
3 30, 2020.

4

5 **WHEREAS**, Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China have co-
6 existed under a “one country, two systems” political framework
7 since the People’s Republic of China resumed sovereignty over the
8 region from the United Kingdom in 1997; and

9 **WHEREAS**, As part of but while still being independent of the People’s
10 Republic of China, Hong Kong has enjoyed a high degree of
11 autonomy in all areas except foreign and defense affairs, and even
12 has its own constitution, money, passport, immigration channel, and
13 legal system; and

14 **WHEREAS**, This political framework has preserved Hong Kong’s
15 distinctive status, freedoms, and laws; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The people of Hong Kong have made global headlines for
17 their pro-democracy protests, which were triggered by the
18 introduction of an extradition bill introduced by the People’s
19 Republic of China in April 2019 and which are now focused on
20 demanding amnesty for arrested protesters, an independent inquiry
21 into alleged police brutality, and the implementation of complete
22 universal suffrage; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Hong Kong protests have escalated over the past year,
24 and the People’s Republic of China has blamed their continued
25 existence on the interference and backing of foreign countries, such
26 as the United States, and views the Hong Kong protests as
27 concerted efforts to sow chaos and topple the ruling Communist
28 Party of the People’s Republic of China; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The People’s Republic of China imposed a new national
30 security law on June 30, 2020 on Hong Kong, entitled “The Law of
31 the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security
32 in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,” with the goal of
33 stamping out opposition to the ruling Communist Party; and

34 **WHEREAS**, The expansive and draconian new law was passed swiftly
35 and in secrecy, breaking with standard Chinese legal procedures
36 when the public is able to view and comment on proposed
37 legislation before its passage; and

38 **WHEREAS**, As a result of this secrecy, Hong Kong officials had no
39 opportunity to provide input on either the drafting or passage of the
40 new law; and

41 **WHEREAS**, The new law consists of 66 articles and lays out new
42 crimes and punishments for vaguely defined acts of separatism,
43 subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign countries, with the
44 maximum punishment for the most serious of offenses being life
45 imprisonment; and

46 **WHEREAS**, Agencies and offices, such as the Committee for
47 Safeguarding National Security which is an arm of the Chinese
48 national security apparatus, are also to be established in Hong Kong

1 under the new law and will have the power to collect intelligence in
2 Hong Kong in total secrecy and will be shielded from legal
3 challenges; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Finally, the new law allows the government of the People's
5 Republic of China to target protestors, grants the People's Republic
6 of China broad authority to intervene in Hong Kong's historically
7 independent legal system, and targets certain institutions, such as
8 schools, for tighter governmental control and oversight; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Arrests and detainments for violations of the new law have
10 already been made, including the July 1, 2020 arrest of a man after
11 he unfurled a Hong Kong flag during demonstrations; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Condemnation of such ambiguous and dangerous laws,
13 which openly flout the democratic process and negatively affect
14 public discourse and human rights, should come from every nation;
15 now, therefore,
16

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
18 Jersey (the Senate concurring):
19

20 1. The New Jersey Legislature condemns the Hong Kong
21 national security law passed by the People's Republic of China on
22 June 30, 2020 because of its effects on free public discourse and
23 basic human rights.
24

25 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
26 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
27 Secretary of the Senate to the Office of the President of the United
28 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United State
29 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House
30 of Representatives, and every member of Congress from this State.
31
32

33 STATEMENT

34

35 This resolution condemns "The Law of the People's Republic of
36 China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special
37 Administrative Region" passed by the People's Republic of China
38 on June 30, 2020.

39 Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China have co-existed
40 under a "one country, two systems" political framework since the
41 People's Republic of China resumed sovereignty over the region
42 from the United Kingdom in 1997. As part of but while still being
43 independent of the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong has
44 enjoyed a high degree of autonomy in all areas except foreign and
45 defense affairs, and even has its own constitution, money, passport,
46 immigration channel, and legal system. This political framework
47 has preserved Hong Kong's distinctive status, freedoms, and laws.

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2 pro-democracy protests, which were triggered by the introduction of
3 an extradition bill introduced by the People's Republic of China in
4 April 2019 and which are now focused on demanding amnesty for
5 arrested protesters, an independent inquiry into alleged police
6 brutality, and the implementation of complete universal suffrage.
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8 People's Republic of China has blamed their continued existence on
9 the interference and backing of foreign countries, such as the
10 United States, and views the Hong Kong protests as concerted
11 efforts to sow chaos and topple the ruling Communist Party of the
12 People's Republic of China.

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14 law on June 30, 2020 on Hong Kong, entitled "The Law of the
15 People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in
16 the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region," with the goal of
17 stamping out opposition to the ruling Communist Party. The
18 expansive and draconian new law was passed swiftly and in
19 secrecy, breaking with standard Chinese legal procedures when the
20 public is able to view and comment on proposed legislation before
21 its passage. As a result of this secrecy, Hong Kong officials had no
22 opportunity to provide input on either the drafting or passage of the
23 new law. The new law consists of 66 articles and lays out new
24 crimes and punishments for vaguely defined acts of separatism,
25 subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign countries, with the
26 maximum punishment for the most serious of offenses being life
27 imprisonment. Agencies and offices, such as the Committee for
28 Safeguarding National Security which is an arm of the Chinese
29 national security apparatus, are also to be established in Hong Kong
30 under the new law and will have the power to collect intelligence in
31 Hong Kong in total secrecy and will be shielded from legal
32 challenges. Finally, the new law allows the government of the
33 People's Republic of China to target protestors, grants the People's
34 Republic of China broad authority to intervene in Hong Kong's
35 historically independent legal system, and targets certain
36 institutions, such as schools, for tighter governmental control and
37 oversight.

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43 discourse and human rights, should come from every nation.