

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 177

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Department of Treasury to place Harriet Tubman on \$20 bill without delay.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/27/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department of
2 the Treasury to place Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill without
3 delay.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Harriet Tubman remains one of the most famous women in
6 American History; and
7 **WHEREAS**, An escaped slave herself, Tubman served as a conductor on
8 the Underground Railroad leading 70 slaves out of Maryland north
9 to their freedom while also providing instruction to 70 more who
10 found their way to freedom on their own; and
11 **WHEREAS**, For a brief period of time, Tubman called New Jersey home
12 working as a cook to raise money for her work as a conductor and
13 settling freed slaves in Cape May; and
14 **WHEREAS**, In addition to her work on the Underground Railroad, she
15 served as a spy, nurse, and cook for the Union Army during the Civil
16 War; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In running a spy ring in South Carolina, Tubman proved
18 herself invaluable at gathering clandestine information, forming
19 alliances, and avoiding capture; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Tubman often ventured behind Confederate lines disguising
21 herself as a field hand and leading scouting missions to identify and
22 map out the locations of enemy mines, supply depots, and troops;
23 and
24 **WHEREAS**, On June 1, 1863 she, along with Union Colonel James
25 Montgomery and his Second South Carolina Volunteers, launched a
26 raid on plantations along the Combahee River; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Although illiterate and unable to write down any of the
28 intelligence she gathered, Tubman committed everything to memory
29 and used it to guide ships towards strategic points near the shores of
30 the Combahee River thereby allowing Union forces to avoid
31 locations of torpedoes, pick up fleeing slaves, and deploy troops to
32 destroy nearby Confederate plantations; and
33 **WHEREAS**, By the time it concluded, the Combahee Ferry Raid dealt a
34 significant blow to the South's slaveholder economy and rescued
35 more than 700 slaves from bondage, some of whom later enlisted in
36 the Union army; and
37 **WHEREAS**, For her role in the raid, Tubman became the first woman in
38 United States history to lead an armed military operation; and
39 **WHEREAS**, In her later years, Tubman dedicated herself to the cause of
40 women's suffrage and established a home for the elderly; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Currently, plans to place Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill
42 have been delayed until at least 2026; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Given the extraordinary life she led, Harriet Tubman is
44 worthy of recognition on United States currency and plans to place
45 her likeness on the \$20 bill should be implemented without delay;
46 now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey:*

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4 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Department
5 of the Treasury to place the likeness of Harriet Tubman on the \$20
6 bill without delay in recognition of her lifelong dedication to the
7 cause of freedom and equality.

8

9 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
10 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
11 President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury,
12 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker
13 and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives, and each
14 member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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19 This resolution urges the President of the United States and the
20 Secretary of the Treasury to place the likeness of Harriet Tubman on
21 the \$20 bill without delay. Currently, plans to place Harriet Tubman
22 on the \$20 bill have been delayed until at least 2026.

23 Harriet Tubman remains one of the most famous women in
24 American History. Through her work as a conductor on the
25 Underground Railroad, as a scout and spy for the Union Army, and
26 as a supporter of women's suffrage, Tubman dedicated herself to the
27 cause of freedom and equality for all individuals regardless of race
28 or gender. Given the extraordinary life she led, this House believes
29 Harriet Tubman is worthy of being depicted on this nation's currency
30 and efforts to place her likeness on the \$20 bill should be done
31 without delay.