

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 178

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

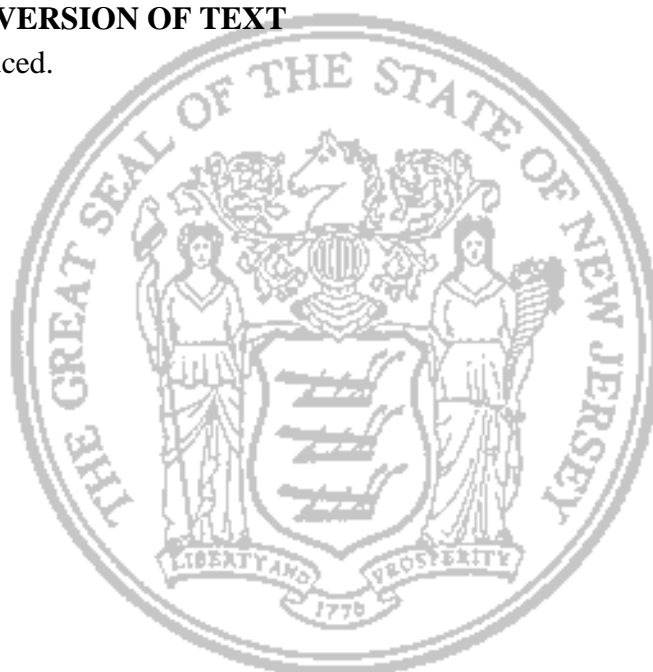
**Assemblywomen Timberlake, Vainieri Huttler, Assemblyman Tully and
Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass legislation to remove Confederate statues in US Capitol building.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

AR178 MOEN, MCKNIGHT

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 pass legislation requiring the removal of Confederate statues in
3 the United States Capitol building.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, There are few places in the United States where symbols
6 of the country's history are more prominently on display and in
7 greater abundance than the nation's capital of Washington, D.C.;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, The National Statuary Hall Collection, established in 1864,
10 was created with the goal of honoring important historical figures in
11 United States history; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Each state is encouraged to contribute two statues, subject
13 to approval by the state legislature and governor, to the Capitol's
14 National Statuary Hall Collection; and

15 **WHEREAS**, There are currently eleven statues of individuals who
16 served in the Confederacy on display in the Capitol complex with
17 some, such as Confederate President Jefferson Davis, located just
18 steps from the House chamber; and

19 **WHEREAS**, There have been calls over the years to remove these
20 statues, but such calls have led only to various rearrangements of
21 statues within the collection; and

22 **WHEREAS**, In conjunction with protests over police brutality, existing
23 legislative action taken to remove Confederate portraits in the
24 Capitol, and steps taken to rename military installations that are
25 currently named after Confederates, lawmakers and American
26 citizens have renewed calls to remove Confederate statues from the
27 U.S. Capitol building; and

28 **WHEREAS**, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has led these renewed calls
29 for removal of the Confederate statues at the Capitol, and
30 Democratic leaders Barbara Lee and Bennie Thompson introduced
31 legislation in furtherance of this goal; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The introduced legislation, H.R. 7217, aims to remove all
33 statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States
34 of America from display in the United States Capitol within 120
35 days, with the statues then being either reclaimed by the individual
36 states or given to the Smithsonian museums; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Those who committed treason against the United States,
38 and lead the nation into its most painful and bloody war to preserve
39 the institution of slavery, are not patriots and should not be afforded
40 the honor of having their images on display in the United States
41 Capitol; now, therefore,

42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
44 Jersey:

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46 1. This House urges the United States Congress to pass
47 legislation requiring the removal of Confederate statues in the
48 United States Capitol building.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
3 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United State Senate, the
4 Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of
5 Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this
6 State.

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STATEMENT

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11 This resolution urges Congress to pass legislation requiring the
12 removal of all Confederate statues in the United States Capitol
13 building.

14 There are few places in the United States where symbols of the
15 country's history are more prominently on display and in greater
16 abundance than the nation's capital of Washington, D.C.. The
17 National Statuary Hall Collection, established in 1864, was created
18 with the goal of honoring important historical figures in United
19 States history. Each state is encouraged to contribute two statues,
20 subject to approval by the state legislature and governor, to the
21 Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection. There are currently
22 eleven statues of individuals who served in the Confederacy on
23 display in the Capitol complex with some, such as Confederate
24 President Jefferson Davis, located just steps from the House
25 chamber.

26 There have been calls over the years to remove these statues, but
27 such calls have led only to various rearrangement of statues within
28 the collection. In conjunction with protests over police brutality,
29 existing legislative action taken to remove Confederate portraits in
30 the Capitol, and steps taken to rename military installations that are
31 currently named after Confederates, lawmakers and American
32 citizens have renewed calls to remove Confederate statues from the
33 U.S. Capitol building. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has led these
34 renewed calls for removal of the Confederate statues at the Capitol,
35 and Democratic leaders Barbara Lee and Bennie Thompson
36 introduced legislation in furtherance of this goal. The introduced
37 legislation, H.R. 7217, aims to remove all statues of individuals
38 who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from
39 display in the United States Capitol within 120 days, with the
40 statues then being either reclaimed by the individual states or given
41 to the Smithsonian museums.

42 Those who committed treason against the United States, and lead
43 the nation into its most painful and bloody war to preserve the
44 institution of slavery, are not patriots and should not be afforded the
45 honor of having their images on display in the United States
46 Capitol.