

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 240

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey League of Municipalities and New Jersey Chamber of Commerce to implement reforms to address toxic climate for women at annual events.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the New Jersey League of
2 Municipalities and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce to
3 continue to implement reforms to address the toxic climate for
4 women at annual events.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, Sexual assault and harassment has been endured by
7 women in the workplace, as men in supervisory positions imposed
8 unwanted sexual relations onto female subordinates, an extension of
9 the societal power inequities that exist between men and women;
10 and
11 **WHEREAS**, It was not until the 1970's that a woman's right to work in
12 an environment that was free from unwanted sexual advances
13 became recognized and protected by the law; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Despite these advances in the law, women have continued
15 to endure sexual assault and harassment in the workplace; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The "Me Too" movement, which began as local,
17 grassroots effort in 2006 and became a global movement after
18 going "viral" in 2017, provided women who had been subjected to
19 unwanted sexual advances a platform to share their experiences and
20 express the collective desire to end tolerance for such abhorrent
21 behavior in the workplace; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Cultivating a workplace and political arena that is made up
23 of a diverse group of women and men from many different
24 backgrounds benefits the people of this State; but a workplace or
25 political forum that condones sexual assault, harassment, or
26 misogyny in any form dissuades qualified, competent and valuable
27 people from such service; and
28 **WHEREAS**, In December of 2019, an investigative news article
29 revealed that the "Me Too" movement did not end sexual
30 harassment in New Jersey, nor the existence of widespread sexual
31 assault and misogyny within New Jersey State politics and
32 government; and
33 **WHEREAS**, This article prompted the creation of the ad hoc
34 "Workgroup on Harassment, Sexual Assault and Misogyny," which
35 seeks to address the toxic culture of harassment, sexual assault and
36 misogyny that has been and continues to be a reality for too many
37 women working in New Jersey politics; and
38 **WHEREAS**, The Workgroup partnered with both the New Jersey
39 League of Municipalities (NJLM) and the New Jersey Chamber of
40 Commerce (NJCC) in order to adopt reforms to change the unsafe
41 climate for women at their premier annual events, specifically,
42 NJLM's Annual Conference in Atlantic City and the Annual
43 Chamber Train Trip; and
44 **WHEREAS**, As a result of this partnership, the NJLM adopted a Code
45 of Conduct outlining expectations for anyone participating in any of
46 its meetings or events, including its Annual Conference, and noted
47 that harassment and sexist comments violate NJLM's code, as
48 would retaliation for reporting such harassment; and

6 **WHEREAS,** These reforms serve to create a safer and more equitable
7 environment for all New Jersey residents who attend such events
8 especially those woman who choose to work in the field of politics
9 in New Jersey; now, therefore,

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
12 *Jersey:*

14 1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urges the
15 New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Chamber
16 of Commerce to continue to implement reforms adopted to address
17 the toxic climate for women at their annual events.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Executive Director for the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the President and CEO of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

25 STATEMENT

27 This resolution urges the New Jersey League of Municipalities
28 (NJLM) and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce (NJCC) to
29 continue to implement reforms aimed at making their annual events
30 safer and more equitable for women working in politics and
31 government in New Jersey. These reforms were adopted as a result
32 of the NJLM's and the NJCC collaboration with the Workgroup on
33 Harassment, Sexual Assault and Misogyny in New Jersey Politics.

This Workgroup was formed in order to address the findings of an investigation which revealed that incidents of harassment, sexual assault, and misogyny were quite prevalent within State politics and government. Working with many different stakeholders within the State, the Workgroup focused on creating policies and practices which would make New Jersey a safer and more equitable place to live and work. The policies and practices adopted by the NJLM and NJCC in regard to their annual events represent much needed reforms to a toxic climate for women in this State.