

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 39**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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:

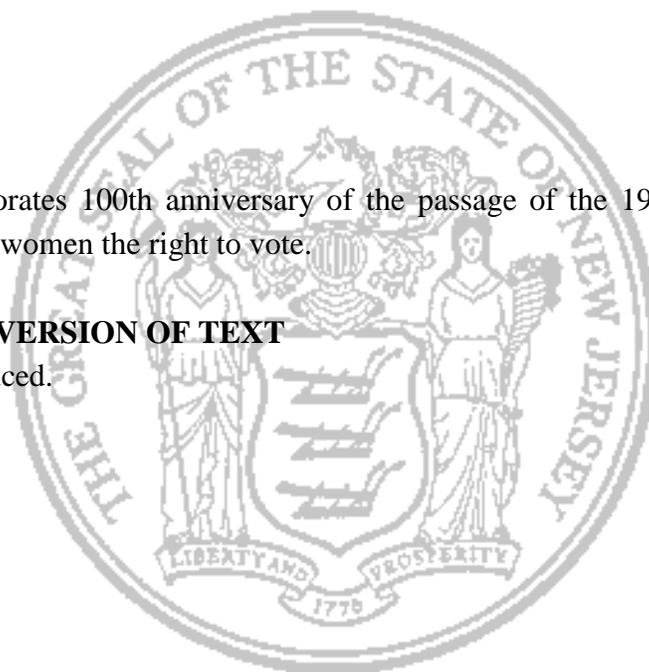
**Senator Gopal, Assemblywomen Speight, Jimenez, Vainieri Huttie,
Assemblymen Peterson, Giblin, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Quijano,
Lampitt, Assemblyman Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey**

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)

SCR39 GREENSTEIN, TURNER

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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

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- 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,

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33 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
34 General Assembly 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.

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42 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
43 proclamation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passage
44 of the 19th Amendment.

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46 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
47 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary

SCR39 GREENSTEIN, TURNER

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1 of the Senate to the New Jersey Chapter of the National
2 Organization for Women.

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STATEMENT

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