

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 60

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges the U.S. Senate to enact legislation eliminating deadline for ratification of Equal Rights Amendment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Senate to enact
 2 legislation eliminating the deadline for the ratification of the
 3 Equal Rights Amendment.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed
 6 amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee
 7 equal rights for women; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The ERA states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not
 9 be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on
 10 account of sex - the ERA establishes within the United States
 11 Constitution the unambiguous and unassailable rights of women
 12 under the law”; and

13 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey suffragist leaders Alice Paul and Crystal
 14 Eastman authored the ERA in 1923. It was introduced for the first
 15 time in the United States Congress that same year; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In 1972, the ERA passed the United State Congress and
 17 was submitted to the state legislatures for ratification. Congress set
 18 a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979, and through 1977, 35 of
 19 the required 38 states had ratified the amendment; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In 1978, a joint resolution of the United States Congress
 21 extended the deadline for ratification to June 30, 1982; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The ERA has gained new life in recent years. In 2017,
 23 Nevada became the 36th state to ratify and Illinois followed in
 24 2018. In January, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA
 25 — ostensibly reaching the required three-fourths threshold for the
 26 28th Amendment to the Constitution, even though the 1982
 27 deadline to ratify the ERA has long since passed; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Currently, members of the United States Congress are
 29 working to advance federal legislation to ratify the ERA; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Senate Joint Resolution 15 and House Joint Resolution 51,
 31 introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) and
 32 Representative Jackie Speier (D-California), respectively, would
 33 retroactively remove the 1982 deadline for ratification so the ERA
 34 could be added to the United States Constitution without the
 35 introduction of a new amendment; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Although state legislatures and members of United States
 37 Congress continue to push for women’s equality, without the
 38 ratification of the ERA the advances made on equal pay for equal
 39 work, educational equity, reproductive rights, gender
 40 discrimination, and other crucial women’s rights would be
 41 jeopardized; now, therefore,

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

45
 46 1. The Legislature hereby urges the United States Senate to
 47 join with the United States House of Representatives to enact
 48 legislation that would retroactively eliminate the deadline for the

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1 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in order to enshrine this
2 country's commitment to equal rights for women in the United
3 States and introduce the idea of sex equality as a fundamental
4 principle in the United States Constitution.

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6 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
7 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
8 Secretary of the Senate to each member of the New Jersey
9 Congressional delegation.

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11 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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14 **STATEMENT**

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16 This resolution urges the United States Senate to join with the
17 United States House of Representatives to enact legislation that
18 would retroactively eliminate the deadline for the ratification of the
19 Equal Rights Amendment in order to enshrine this country's
20 commitment to equal rights for women in the United States and
21 introduce the idea of sex equality as a fundamental principle in the
22 United States Constitution.