

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 126**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass legislation admitting District of Columbia as 51st state.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



ACR126 WATSON COLEMAN, JOHNSON

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the United States
2 Congress to pass legislation admitting the District of Columbia
3 as the 51st state of the United States of America.

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5 **WHEREAS**, Since its organization in 1801, residents of the District of
6 Columbia (district) have been denied federal voting rights and full
7 self-governance; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The United States Congress maintains oversight of the
9 democratically-elected district government, and can change or veto
10 any budget or legislative measure passed by the district
11 government, regardless of the preference of district residents; and

12 **WHEREAS**, With approximately 646,000 district residents, the district
13 generates more than \$3.9 billion in federal income taxes annually,
14 yet residents have no input on how their tax dollars are spent
15 because they do not have full voting representation in the United
16 States Congress; and

17 **WHEREAS**, District residents are required to serve on federal juries, yet
18 lack full voting representation in the United States Congress; and

19 **WHEREAS**, 40,000 district residents are veterans who have risked their
20 lives serving in the United States Armed Forces, yet they are denied
21 full voting representation in the United States Congress; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Per capita, more district residents have served the United
23 States Armed Forces in times of war than the residents of any other
24 state; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Ten United States Armed Forces service members from
26 the district have died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Out of 118 electoral democracies around the world, the
28 United States is the only country that denies citizens of its national
29 capital the right to full democracy; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The modern district statehood movement has been in
31 existence for nearly 40 years, and it consistently supports
32 legislation in Congress that would grant the district statehood under
33 the name “New Columbia”; and

34 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature of the State of
35 New Jersey to urge Congress to pass legislation providing for the
36 admission of the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United
37 States of America under the name “New Columbia”; now,
38 therefore,

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40 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
41 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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43 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the United
44 States Congress to pass legislation providing for the admission of
45 the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United States of
46 America under the name “New Columbia.”

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
3 Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States of
4 America, the Speaker of the United States House of
5 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
6 the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the Chairman of the
7 Council of the District of Columbia.

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STATEMENT

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This concurrent resolution urges Congress to pass legislation providing for the admission of the District of Columbia (district) as the 51st state of the United States. Since its organization in 1801, the residents of the district have been denied federal voting rights and full self-governance. Congress maintains oversight of the democratically-elected district government, and can change or veto any budget or legislative measure passed by the district government, regardless of the preference of district residents. With approximately 646,000 district residents, the district generates more than \$3.9 billion in federal income taxes annually, yet residents have no input on how their tax dollars are spent because they do not have full voting representation in the United States Congress. District residents are required to serve on federal juries, yet lack full voting representation in Congress. 40,000 veterans who have risked their lives serving in the United States Armed Forces are district residents, yet they are denied the right of full voting representation in Congress. Per capita, more district residents have served in the United States Armed Forces during wartime than the residents of any other state and ten Armed Forces service members from the district have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Out of 118 electoral democracies around the world, the United States is the only country that denies citizens of its national capital the right to full democracy. The modern district statehood movement has been in existence for nearly 40 years, and it routinely supports legislation in Congress that would grant the district statehood under the name "New Columbia."

This Legislature wishes to formally declare its support for the admission of the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United States of America under the name "New Columbia."