

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 178**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2016

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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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.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Since its organization in 1801, residents of the District of
6 Columbia (district) have been denied voting rights for federal
7 representation and full 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 672,000 district residents, the district
13 generates approximately \$5 billion in district taxes annually, yet
14 residents have no input on how their tax dollars are spent because
15 they do not have full voting representation in the United States
16 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**, 29,825 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**, Ten United States Armed Forces service members from
23 the district have died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Out of 118 electoral democracies around the world, the
25 United States is the only country that denies citizens of its national
26 capital the right to full participate in the democratic process; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The modern district statehood movement consistently
28 supports legislation in Congress that grants the district statehood;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, District Mayor Muriel E. Bowser has called for a district-
31 wide vote in November of 2016 to grant the district statehood; and

32 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore appropriate for the Legislature of the State of
33 New Jersey to urge Congress to pass legislation providing for the
34 admission of the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United
35 States of America; now, therefore,

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

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40 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the United
41 States Congress to pass legislation providing for the admission of
42 the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United States of
43 America.

44
45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
46 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
47 Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States of
48 America, the Speaker of the United States House of

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1 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
2 every member of Congress elected from this State, the Mayor of the
3 District of Columbia, and the Chairman of the Council of the
4 District of Columbia.

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STATEMENT

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9 This concurrent resolution urges Congress to pass legislation
10 providing for the admission of the District of Columbia (district) as
11 the 51st state of the United States. Since its organization in 1801,
12 the residents of the district have been denied voting rights for
13 federal representation and full self-governance. Congress maintains
14 oversight of the democratically-elected district government, and can
15 change or veto any budget or legislative measure passed by the
16 district government, regardless of the preference of district
17 residents. With approximately 672,000 district residents, the
18 district generates approximately \$5 billion in district taxes annually,
19 yet residents have no input on how their tax dollars are spent
20 because they do not have full voting representation in the United
21 States Congress. District residents are required to serve on federal
22 juries, yet lack full voting representation in Congress. 29,825
23 veterans who have risked their lives serving in the United States
24 Armed Forces are district residents, yet they are denied the right of
25 full voting representation in Congress. Ten Armed Forces service
26 members from the district have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Out
27 of 118 electoral democracies around the world, the United States is
28 the only country that denies citizens of its national capital the right
29 to full participate in the democratic process. The modern district
30 statehood movement routinely supports legislation in Congress that
31 would grant the district statehood. District Mayor Muriel E.
32 Bowser has called for a district-wide vote in November of 2016 to
33 grant the district statehood.

34 This Legislature wishes to formally declare its support for the
35 admission of the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United
36 States of America.