SENATE, No. 1959

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Sponsored by:
Senator STEVEN V. OROHO
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Designates “Franklinite” as official mineral of State of NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT designating "Franklinite" as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

WHEREAS, The mineral Franklinite was first described in 1819 by Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Franklinite, with a striking black color, submetallic luster, and sharp octahedral crystals, is aesthetically pleasing and makes for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong interest from mineral collectors around the world; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at Ogdensburg, which operated for more than 250 years, producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the State of New Jersey and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere else on Earth; and

WHEREAS, Though millions of tons of Franklinite, Willemite, and Zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in small amounts; and

WHEREAS, The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough of Franklin the "Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World"; and

WHEREAS, In a poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with several thousand national participants, 96 percent voted in support of Franklinite as the New Jersey State mineral; and

WHEREAS, In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and historic importance of Franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to designate Franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. "Franklinite" is designated as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill designates "Franklinite" as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

The mineral Franklinite was first described in 1819 by Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. With a striking black color, submetallic luster, and sharp octahedral crystals, Franklinite is aesthetically pleasing and makes for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong interest from mineral collectors around the world.

New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at Ogdensburg. These mines operated for more than 250 years, producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the State of New Jersey and the nation. Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. Though millions of tons of Franklinite, Willemite, and Zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in small amounts.

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