

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 110, *approved July 19, 2023*  
Senate, No. 1727

1 **AN ACT** designating franklinite as the official mineral of the State  
2 of New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

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5 **WHEREAS**, The mineral franklinite was first described in 1819 by  
6 Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, Though millions of tons of franklinite, willemite, and  
21 zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in  
22 small amounts; and

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

27 **WHEREAS**, In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the  
28 Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the  
29 World”; and

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

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

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

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

1       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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6       This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State  
7 of New Jersey.

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

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

25       The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg (Sterling  
26 Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by the  
27 Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and  
28 the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society.

29       In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough  
30 of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World.” In a  
31 poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental  
32 Protection with several thousand national participants, 96 percent  
33 voted in support of franklinite as the New Jersey State mineral. In  
34 order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and historic  
35 importance of franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to designate  
36 franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

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41       Designates franklinite as official mineral of State of NJ.