

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Supports National Black Caucus of State Legislators efforts to ensure 40 percent of certain federal investments are made in communities of color and other disadvantaged communities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR125 TURNER, SINGLETON

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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** supporting the resolve and efforts of the
2 National Black Caucus of State Legislators to ensure 40 percent
3 of federal infrastructure investments are made in communities of
4 color and other disadvantaged communities.

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6 **WHEREAS**, President Biden, in a historical signing of Executive Order
7 14008 on January 27, 2021, announced the Justice40 Initiative,
8 directing the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the
9 Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National
10 Climate Advisor to jointly publish recommendations on how certain
11 federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of
12 the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities; and

13 **WHEREAS**, In the same Executive Order, President Biden called for
14 delivering environmental justice to communities across America,
15 creating jobs to build a new American infrastructure and clean
16 energy economy, and bringing these job opportunities to
17 “communities too often left behind – places that have suffered as a
18 result of economic shifts and places that have suffered the most
19 from persistent pollution, including low-income rural and urban
20 communities, communities of color, and Native communities”; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,”
22 passed by Congress on November 6, 2021, provides \$1 trillion for
23 infrastructure investments; and

24 **WHEREAS**, It has been documented that a higher percentage of
25 Black and Hispanic Americans than Americans overall – 26
26 percent of Black Americans and 29 percent of Hispanic
27 Americans – live within three miles of Superfund sites, and the
28 federal “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” will invest \$21
29 billion to clean up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim
30 abandoned mines, and cap orphaned oil and gas wells; and

31 **WHEREAS**, This federal legislation, lauded for the bipartisan support it
32 received, will deliver, through a historic investment in broadband
33 infrastructure and deployment, \$65 billion to help ensure that every
34 American has access to high-speed Internet, the lack of which has
35 had great negative impact on the educational and professional
36 opportunities of people in communities of color and low income
37 households; and

38 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”
39 provides for billions of other investments to modernize transit,
40 develop and expand the use of clean energy, build thousands of
41 miles of new resilient transmission lines, protect against
42 droughts, heat, floods, and wildfires, and invest in weatherization
43 to mitigate the impacts of, and damage from, climate change
44 weather events; and

45 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Inflation Reduction Act,” signed into law
46 by President Biden on August 16, 2022, also takes significant
47 action concerning advancing clean energy and addressing climate
48 change, establishes \$370 billion of investments, and advances the

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1 President's Justice40 Initiative by prioritizing the creation of
2 shared prosperity and economic investments to historically
3 underserved communities, particularly those living with legacy
4 pollution; and

5 **WHEREAS**, The more than 70 members of the National Black
6 Caucus of State Legislators in 47 states, the District of Columbia,
7 and the Virgin Islands represent over 60 million people; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The neighborhoods, communities, counties, cities, and
9 states that the members of the National Black Caucus of State
10 Legislators represent are plagued by failing infrastructure,
11 including the presence of lead pipes, compromised and failing
12 water systems, the lack of available affordable housing, and other
13 negative social, economic, and environmental conditions that
14 would be significantly mitigated by much-needed investments in
15 these communities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The National Black Caucus of State Legislators has
17 issued Resolution ETE-23-34, in which the caucus resolved to
18 establish, through legislation, oversight committees to interact
19 with federal agencies to further President Biden's Justice40
20 Initiative and coordinate with local and State agencies to assure
21 maximum benefits are received by the constituents of the
22 legislators in the National Black Caucus of State Legislators;
23 now, therefore,

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25 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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27 1. The Senate supports Resolution ETE-23-34 and the efforts of
28 the National Black Caucus of State Legislators to ensure 40 percent
29 of federal infrastructure investments are made in communities of
30 color and other disadvantaged communities.

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32 2. The Senate further supports the efforts of the National Black
33 Caucus of State Legislators to establish, through legislation,
34 oversight committees to interact with federal agencies, and to
35 otherwise work to accomplish the goals of President Biden's
36 Justice40 Initiative so that the disadvantaged and underserved
37 constituents of the legislators in the National Black Caucus of State
38 Legislators receive the maximum economic, environmental, and
39 infrastructure investment benefits from federal funding initiatives.

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41 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
42 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
43 and Vice President of the United States, each member of the
44 Congressional delegation from the State of New Jersey, and the
45 officers of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

STATEMENT

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This resolution supports the resolve and efforts of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators to:

1) ensure 40 percent of federal infrastructure investments are made in communities of color and other disadvantaged communities;

2) establish, through legislation, oversight committees to interact with federal agencies; and

3) otherwise work to accomplish the goals of President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative so that the disadvantaged and underserved constituents of the legislators in the National Black Caucus of State Legislators receive the maximum economic, environmental, and infrastructure investment benefits from federal funding initiatives.

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators issued Resolution ETE-23-34, in which the caucus resolved to establish, through legislation, oversight committees to interact with federal agencies to further President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative and coordinate with local and State agencies to assure maximum benefits are received by the constituents of the legislators in the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.