SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION
No. 16

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 24, 2002

Sponsored by:
Senator LEONARD LANCE
District 23 (Warren and Hunterdon)
Senator NIA H. GILL
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)
Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN
District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senators McNamara, Allen, Cardinale, Assemblymen O'Toole and Doherty

SYNOPSIS
Revokes Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which sought to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced,

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2003)
A JOINT RESOLUTION revoking Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868
which sought to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the
Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
Constitution granted citizenship to, and protected the civil liberties
of, freed slaves; and

WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment also prohibits states from
abridging the privileges or immunities of any citizen, depriving any
person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or
denying any person equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, The rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment are
part of the foundation of our free society; and

WHEREAS, In 1866, the New Jersey Legislature acted to ensure these
rights by ratifying the Fourteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Thereafter, the New Jersey Legislature, in 1868, attempted
to withdraw its ratification of this amendment by passage of Joint
Resolution No. IV; and

WHEREAS, Both the Federal Secretary of State and the Congress
refused to recognize New Jersey's attempt to withdraw ratification
and the Fourteenth Amendment became a part of the United States
Constitution on July 20, 1868; and

WHEREAS, The attempt to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the
Fourteenth Amendment is contrary to this State's long tradition of
respect for, and protection of, the civil rights of all persons; and

WHEREAS, Even though the attempt to withdraw New Jersey's
ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment was without effect, there
is, nevertheless, a need to rectify this misguided action; now,
therefore,

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

1. Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which attempted to withdraw
New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment is hereby
revoked.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this Joint Resolution shall be
transmitted to the federal Secretary of State, the presiding officers of
the Congress of the United States, and each member of New Jersey's
congressional delegation.

3. This Joint Resolution shall take effect immediately.
SJR16 LANCE, GILL

STATEMENT

This Joint Resolution revokes Joint Resolution No. IV of 1868 which attempted to withdraw New Jersey's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.