

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATORS MIZELL, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CARPENTER, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, EMERSON, HILFERTY, HODGES, HORTON, JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MARCELLE, MOORE, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES, THOMAS AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREAS, the fight for women's suffrage was a lengthy one and brought many disparate groups and individuals to a common cause, believing in and working for the enfranchisement of women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, no one event resulted in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, rather the movement for women's suffrage began in 1848, more than seventy years before the final ratification; and

WHEREAS, the march toward women's suffrage began at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York, which involved a hundred advocates and produced a Declaration of Sentiments, which outlined grievances and set an agenda for the movement; and

WHEREAS, over the next more than forty years, including an eighteen-year hiatus occasioned by the Civil War, the movement grew and gained momentum; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, a split occurred in the suffragist movement, resulting in Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton forming the "National Woman Suffrage Association", whose primary goal was to achieve voting rights for women by means of a congressional amendment to the Constitution, which would then require three-quarters of

the states to ratify the amendment before its inclusion in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and others formed the American Woman Suffrage Association, which focused on achieving voting rights for women through individual state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, in 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in the presidential election for Ulysses S. Grant; and

WHEREAS, once the two major groups fighting for women's suffrage merged into the National Woman Suffrage Association, the movement became considered mainstream and in 1896, the National Association of Colored Women was formed, and in 1913, with the formation of what would be known as the National Woman's Party, the movement's players were all engaged in the fight for women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, Colorado became the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote in 1893, followed by Utah, and Idaho; and

WHEREAS, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson announced that women's suffrage was urgently needed as a "war measure", and in 1919, the amendment, which was originally written by Susan B. Anthony in the previous century, was passed by Congress, sent to the states to be ratified, and was subsequently ratified by twenty-two states, including New York; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, having been ratified by the requisite number of states, became a part of the Constitution, and women in the United States were at last fully enfranchised; and

WHEREAS, this lengthy struggle for the right to vote culminated in women voting in the 1920 presidential election, which Warren G. Harding won; and

WHEREAS, over this current year and 2020, events are planned around the country to celebrate this momentous enactment; and

WHEREAS, the struggle for women's suffrage was lengthy and bitter, and the eventual triumph by the movement lagged behind many states that had granted women the right to vote in state elections, overturned a decision by the United States Supreme Court that granting women the right to vote was unconstitutional, and followed numerous countries around the world who had fully enfranchised women prior to 1920.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920, following ratification by Tennessee, as the requisite number of states had then ratified, and fully enfranchised women in the United States.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES