

2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 544

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, August 28, 2020

WHEREAS, an organized movement to enfranchise women in the United States began in July 1848 at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, over a period of more than 70 years, brave and courageous suffragists sacrificed their personal lives, their financial resources, and time with their families to gain equal rights for their fellow women, especially the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, women and men of all races and creeds supported the movement for women to gain the constitutional right to have an equal voice in making the laws that govern them; and

WHEREAS, the women's suffrage movement led to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1919, with ratification by the last state necessary on August 18, 1920; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification soon thereafter on August 26, which has since become known as the annual Women's Equality Day; and

WHEREAS, the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States offers an opportunity to appreciate the impact these historic accomplishments have had on citizen engagement in the electoral process and on civic life at local, state, and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States hereby be commemorated on August 26, 2020; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation as an expression of the House of Delegates' appreciation for the historical significance of this event and the contributions of generations of women to democracy in the United States.

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