

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—  
ASSEMBLYMEN FRIERSON AND WHEELER

MARCH 1, 2019

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS ATKINSON AND SETTELMEYER

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commemorates the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution by the Nevada Legislature, the first state in the nation to do so. (BDR R-1079)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution by the Nevada Legislature, the first state in the nation to do so.

1 WHEREAS, In 1868, when Ulysses S. Grant was elected  
2 President of the United States, the country struggled as a nation torn  
3 apart by war; and

4 WHEREAS, Suffrage for black men was allowed in only some  
5 parts of the country; and

6 WHEREAS, To address the problem, an amendment to the United  
7 States Constitution was proposed to guarantee suffrage to all black  
8 men in all states; and

9 WHEREAS, William M. Stewart, U.S. Senator from the State of  
10 Nevada, prepared the text of the final version of the proposal to  
11 declare that “[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall  
12 not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on  
13 account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Stewart passionately argued that the  
15 amendment to the Constitution was necessary to guarantee that each  
16 man has the right to protect his own liberty; and

17 WHEREAS, On February 25, 1869, the U.S. House of  
18 Representatives and on February 26, 1869, the U.S. Senate approved



1 the language proposed by Senator Stewart to be added as the 15th  
2 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution upon ratification of the states;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Although the Nevada Legislature was required to  
5 adjourn by March 4, 1869, Senator Stewart swiftly arranged to send  
6 the proposal for ratification in hopes of having his State of Nevada  
7 be the first to ratify the measure; and

8 WHEREAS, Both houses of the Nevada Legislature, during this  
9 4th Legislative Session, approved a joint resolution to ratify the 15th  
10 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on March 1, 1869; and

11 WHEREAS, By the end of the week, six other states had ratified  
12 the 15th Amendment and five more had done so by the end of the  
13 month; and

14 WHEREAS, By February 3, 1870, the final necessary ratification  
15 was obtained and on March 30, 1870, the 15th Amendment was  
16 added to the U.S. Constitution; and

17 WHEREAS, Although the struggle was not over and some states  
18 found ways to continue to exclude the vote of African American  
19 men, Nevada has the historic honor of having had its U.S. Senator  
20 pen the language of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution  
21 and becoming the first state in the nation to acknowledge the right  
22 of suffrage to African Americans; and

23 WHEREAS, Nevada continues to pride itself on diversity and  
24 inclusion in all aspects of life and government; now therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
26 SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 80th Session of the  
27 Nevada Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of  
28 the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on  
29 March 1, 1869, by the members of the 4th Session of the Nevada  
30 Legislature, the first state legislature in the nation to do so; and be it  
31 further

32 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
33 passage.

