

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 36

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Stack and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to establish national infrastructure bank.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Congress to pass legislation
2 establishing a national infrastructure bank.
3
4 **WHEREAS,** The development and maintenance of physical
5 infrastructure including ports, transit, levees, energy,
6 telecommunications, utilities, and broadband contribute
7 significantly to the economy of the United States since an efficient
8 and reliable supply chain and other economic activity are dependent
9 upon that infrastructure; and
10 **WHEREAS,** In addition to the overall positive impact on the nation's
11 economy and America's economic competitiveness and influence,
12 infrastructure modernization also benefits the national security of
13 the United States, and Americans' quality of life; and
14 **WHEREAS,** The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
15 estimates a need of nearly \$6 trillion over a ten year period for
16 infrastructure improvements and development in order for the
17 United States to meet its infrastructure needs; and
18 **WHEREAS,** The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and
19 Medicine assert that a significant portion of American
20 transportation infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and is
21 further strained by the increasing frequency of extreme weather
22 events; and
23 **WHEREAS,** In New Jersey, the replacement or repair of aging
24 infrastructure is particularly important because the State is a major
25 thoroughfare for national and international trade but, in some
26 instances is reliant on century old infrastructure to move millions of
27 people and goods, particularly along the northeast corridor which
28 serves as a significant bottleneck for rail-based commerce; and
29 **WHEREAS,** The most recent ASCE report card for New Jersey
30 indicates that only 29 percent of roads in the State are in good
31 condition, only 27 percent of bridges in the State are in good
32 condition; and that there are 229 high-hazard dams; and
33 **WHEREAS,** Current funding mechanisms for large scale, long-term,
34 innovative infrastructure projects are limited as project-based
35 federal grants and siloed transportation banks have proven to be
36 insufficient to fill the gaps of our expanding definition of
37 infrastructure; and
38 **WHEREAS,** Legislation currently pending in Congress as House
39 Resolution 3339 (H.R.3339) would charter a government-owned
40 national bank that will create capital by trading U.S. Treasury
41 Bonds from private investors for preferred stock with a guaranteed
42 rate of return higher than the U.S. Treasury rate; and
43 **WHEREAS,** The new bank would otherwise work in the same manner
44 as a commercial bank, generating wealth from interest on loan
45 repayment by state and local governments and interstate authorities;
46 and

1 **WHEREAS**, A government sponsored infrastructure bank is currently
2 the primary funding apparatus for many nations, including our
3 direct economic competitors; and

4 **WHEREAS**, The United States has previously relied on national banks
5 at times of great need to spur intrepid production, including the first
6 and second national banks, President Lincoln’s national banking
7 system, and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation established
8 during the “New Deal” era by President Franklin Roosevelt, and it
9 must do so again to remain competitive in the global economy; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Failure to establish a dedicated, regenerative, nonpartisan
11 funding mechanism for grand infrastructure endeavors would stifle
12 economic growth, public safety, and American quality of life and
13 would limit the ability of New Jersey and other states to move
14 forward on vital infrastructure projects; now, therefore,

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

18 1. This House urges the United States Congress to pass
19 H.R.3339, establishing a national infrastructure bank.

21 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
22 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority
23 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
24 Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives,
25 and every member of Congress elected from New Jersey.

28 STATEMENT

30 This resolution respectfully urges Congress to pass H.R.3339,
31 establishing a national infrastructure bank.

American infrastructure is in dire need of investment, as outlined by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Increasing frequency of extreme weather events further strains infrastructure approaching the end of its useful life. In New Jersey alone, less than 30 percent of the roads and bridges are in good condition. As host to a large portion of the northeast corridor, New Jersey moves national and international trade, and millions of people each day along deteriorating structures.

Nationally, broadband access, modernization of the energy grid, and remediation of the water supply systems are of paramount importance. Economic vitality, national security, public safety and quality of life, are dependent on sound infrastructure. Current funding mechanisms do not address the scope of the need. Direct competitors of the United States rely on an infrastructure funding method invented and previously used by America.

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1 H.R.3339 addresses funding shortfalls for large, innovative
2 infrastructure projects by establishing a national infrastructure
3 bank, perpetually generating funds in a manner similar to a
4 commercial bank. A dedicated, regenerative, nonpartisan funding
5 mechanism is required to remedy inadequacies in our energy grid,
6 transportation and other systems, in addition to preparing us for a
7 future of increasing extreme weather conditions.