

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.J.R. 137
Feb 16, 2023
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR10072-LG-43

Sponsors: Representative Belk.

Referred
to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION ADMITTING WASHINGTON, D.C., INTO THE
3 UNION AS A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

4 Whereas, the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the
5 District of Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the
6 United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

7 Whereas, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of Columbia
8 under the exclusive authority of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote
9 for members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the United States; and

10 Whereas, residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for the
11 President and Vice President through passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United
12 States Constitution in 1961; and

13 Whereas, as of 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates that the District of
14 Columbia's population at approximately 689,545 residents is comparable to the populations of
15 Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094); and

16 Whereas, residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United
17 States citizenship, including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on
18 federal juries, and defending the United States as members of the United States Armed Forces in
19 every war since the War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress;
20 and

21 Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed
22 statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8,
23 2016, which favored statehood by 86%; and

24 Whereas, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including
25 participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

26 Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and
27 citizenship enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

28 Whereas, the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered with the District of
29 Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's
30 expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of locally raised revenue,
31 thus violating the fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact
32 legislation that represents the will of their citizens; and

33 Whereas, although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets
34 since FY 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of congressional
35 deliberations over the federal budget; and



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1 Whereas, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S.
2 Senator Tom Carper introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C.,
3 Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington, D.C., would have all the rights of
4 citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two Senators and at least one House
5 member; and

6 Whereas, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United
7 States Congress to address the District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the
8 Organization of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the District of Columbia
9 residents a violation of its charter agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; Now,
10 therefore,

11 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

12 **SECTION 1.** The State of North Carolina supports admitting Washington, D.C., into
13 the Union as a state of the United States of America.

14 **SECTION 2.** The members of the United States Congress are urged to enact federal
15 legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit copies of this resolution to each
17 of the members of North Carolina's congressional delegation and to the Clerk of the United States
18 House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate.

19 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.