

**BY:** Senator GOUNARDES

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to recognize April 20, 2021, in honor of the 244th Anniversary of the adoption of the first New York State Constitution

**WHEREAS,** A Convention of Representatives of the State of New York first gathered on Sunday evening, July 10, 1776, in White Plains, New York, to draft a new State Constitution declaring independence from the Kingdom of England and creating constitutional laws and to have this Constitution replace the Colonial Charter, which was under authority from the Monarch of the Kingdom of England; and

**WHEREAS,** The Convention was forced into repeated adjournments and changes of location throughout the winter caused by the threat of a British occupation and the British Army invasion of Staten Island; and

**WHEREAS,** On April 20, 1777, the Convention successfully terminated its labors and adopted the first New York Constitution, creating a democratic and free independent State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution, as the State's foundational document, defines the rights and privilege afforded to the citizens of the State; and

**WHEREAS,** Over 244 years, the State has adopted five Constitutions and many additional Amendments to reflect the evolving societal standards of decency, thus redefining the role of government and creating a more expansive and inclusive understanding of the rights and privileges protected by the Constitution, and to whom such rights and privileges are afforded; and

**WHEREAS,** It is recognized that the Constitution is vitally important to the functioning of our State government and protection of our State's citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** It is further recognized that educating our State's citizens and residents about the Constitution is equally vitally important; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to recognize April 20, 2021, in honor of the 244th Anniversary of the adoption of the first New York State Constitution; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.