Senate Resolution No. 704

BY: Senator WEBB

COMMEMORATING the 58th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and which are indelibly etched in the saga of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to be celebrated at an event on Sunday, August 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, During this auspicious occasion, it is imperative to raise awareness and educate all Americans on their right to vote on a local, state, and/or federal level; and

WHEREAS, On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law; this landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States prohibits racial discrimination in voting; Congress later amended the Act five times to expand its protections; and

WHEREAS, Designed to enforce the voting rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the Act allowed for a mass enfranchisement of racial minorities throughout the country, especially in the South; according to the United States Department of Justice, the Act is considered to be the most effective piece of civil rights legislation ever enacted in this country; and

WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965's effects were wide and powerful; by 1968, nearly 60 percent of eligible African Americans were registered to vote in Mississippi, and other southern states showed similar improvement; and

WHEREAS, Today, almost six decades later, the struggle for voting rights remains, even though the freedom to vote is fundamental to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate events of significance in the history and progress of society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rejoice the Vote.