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**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

Kimberly Redmond, 'Murphy signs law designating official state mineral', *NJBIZ* (online), 20 Jul 2023

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 110, *approved July 19, 2023*  
Senate, No. 1727

1 **AN ACT** designating franklinite as the official mineral of the State  
2 of New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4

5 **WHEREAS**, The mineral franklinite was first described in 1819 by  
6 Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Franklinite, with a striking black color, submetallic luster,  
8 and sharp octahedral crystals, is aesthetically pleasing and makes  
9 for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong  
10 interest from mineral collectors around the world; and

11 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including  
12 two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at  
13 Ogdensburg, which operated for more than 250 years, producing  
14 more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing  
15 significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the  
16 State of New Jersey and the nation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have  
18 been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere  
19 else on Earth; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Though millions of tons of franklinite, willemite, and  
21 zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in  
22 small amounts; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg  
24 (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by  
25 the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum,  
26 and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; and

27 **WHEREAS**, In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the  
28 Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the  
29 World”; and

30 **WHEREAS**, In a poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of  
31 Environmental Protection with several thousand national  
32 participants, 96 percent voted in support of franklinite as the New  
33 Jersey State mineral; and

34 **WHEREAS**, In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and  
35 historic importance of franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to  
36 designate franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New  
37 Jersey; now, therefore,

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39 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
40 *of New Jersey:*

41

42 1. Franklinite is designated as the official mineral of the State  
43 of New Jersey.

1       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State  
7 of New Jersey.

8       The mineral franklinite was first described in 1819 by Pierre  
9 Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. With a  
10 striking black color, submetallic luster, and sharp octahedral  
11 crystals, franklinite is aesthetically pleasing and makes for  
12 handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong  
13 interest from mineral collectors around the world.

14       New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two  
15 world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at  
16 Ogdensburg. These mines operated for more than 250 years,  
17 producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and  
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19 history of the State of New Jersey and the nation. Three hundred  
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21 two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere else on Earth.  
22 Though millions of tons of franklinite, willemite, and zincite are  
23 found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in small  
24 amounts.

25       The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg (Sterling  
26 Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by the  
27 Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and  
28 the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society.

29       In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough  
30 of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World.” In a  
31 poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental  
32 Protection with several thousand national participants, 96 percent  
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36 franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

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Designates franklinite as official mineral of State of NJ.

# SENATE, No. 1727

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Senator EDWARD DURR**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

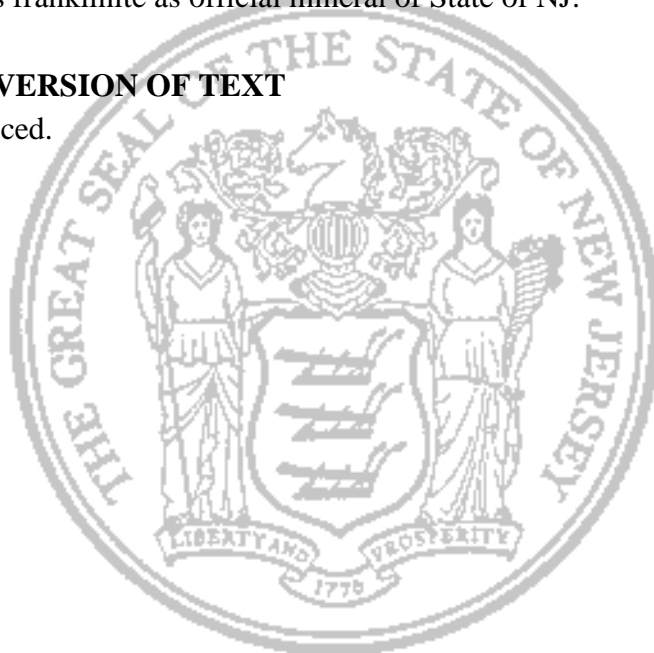
**Senators Zwicker, Holzapfel and Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates franklinite as official mineral of State of NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)

1 AN ACT designating franklinite as the official mineral of the State  
2 of New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes.

4  
5 WHEREAS, The mineral franklinite was first described in 1819 by  
6 Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and

7 WHEREAS, Franklinite, with a striking black color, submetallic luster,  
8 and sharp octahedral crystals, is aesthetically pleasing and makes  
9 for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong  
10 interest from mineral collectors around the world; and

11 WHEREAS, New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including  
12 two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at  
13 Ogdensburg, which operated for more than 250 years, producing  
14 more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing  
15 significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the  
16 State of New Jersey and the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have  
18 been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere  
19 else on Earth; and

20 WHEREAS, Though millions of tons of franklinite, willemite, and  
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23 WHEREAS, The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg  
24 (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by  
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26 and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; and

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28 Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the  
29 World”; and

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32 participants, 96 percent voted in support of franklinite as the New  
33 Jersey State mineral; and

34 WHEREAS, In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and  
35 historic importance of franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to  
36 designate franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New  
37 Jersey; now, therefore,

38  
39 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
40 *of New Jersey:*

41  
42 1. Franklinite is designated as the official mineral of the State  
43 of New Jersey.

44  
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

The mineral franklinite was first described in 1819 by Pierre Berthier and was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. With a striking black color, submetallic luster, and sharp octahedral crystals, franklinite is aesthetically pleasing and makes for handsome mineral specimens, creating the potential for strong interest from mineral collectors around the world.

New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at Ogdensburg. These mines operated for more than 250 years, producing more than 33 million tons of high-grade zinc ore and contributing significantly to the economic vitality and cultural history of the State of New Jersey and the nation. Three hundred fifty-nine different confirmed minerals have been found in these two mines, 19 of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. Though millions of tons of franklinite, willemite, and zincite are found in these mines, they are found elsewhere only in small amounts.

The Franklin Mine closed in 1954, and the Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill) Mine closed in 1986, but both are memorialized by the Franklin Mineral Museum, the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society.

In 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough of Franklin the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World.” In a poll conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with several thousand national participants, 96 percent voted in support of franklinite as the New Jersey State mineral. In order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and historic importance of franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to designate franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
SENATE, No. 1727

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 3, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1727.

This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

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ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1727**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1727.

This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3393 as also reported by the committee.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3393

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates franklinite as official mineral of State of NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)**

A3393 SPACE, WIRTHS

2

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ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3393**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3393.

This bill designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1727 as also reported by the committee.

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Designating Franklinite as State Mineral

07/19/2023

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed S1727/A3393, which designates franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey. Sponsored by Senators Steven Oroho, Edward Durr and Assemblymen Parker Space, Hal Wirths, and Kevin J. Rooney, the legislation recognizes a source of New Jersey pride and a crucial contributor to the state's industrial history.

"By designating franklinite as the official State Mineral, we celebrate yet another quintessentially Jersey piece of history," said **Governor Murphy**. "Franklinite quite literally helped build our modernizing nation's foundation while fueling the growth of the railroad industry and New Jersey's local economies. This legislation will ensure that franklinite's enduring economic and cultural legacy is remembered not just in Sussex County, but across the Garden State."

"The Murphy Administration's recognition of franklinite as the New Jersey State Mineral underscores the worldwide renown and critical role that franklinite has had in the industrial history of our state," said **New Jersey State Geologist Jeff Hoffman**. "The largest deposit of franklinite in the world is in the ore bodies that supplied the Franklin Mine and Sterling Mine in Sussex County. Zinc from these mines supported many uses and was crucial to early industrial development in New Jersey. Moreover, these mines were the largest suppliers of zinc during World War II, providing the raw materials needed for weapons that helped protect our country and troops."

"Franklinite represents an important part of New Jersey's history for the role it played in helping to industrialize our state," said **Senator Steven Oroho**. "Found exclusively in the United States in the communities of Franklin and Ogdensburg, franklinite is a critical link to our state's mineral mining heritage and its designation as New Jersey's official state mineral is appropriate."

"Franklinite is a mineral unique to New Jersey and was a key component to the modernization of our state during the 19th and 20th centuries," said **Senator Edward Durr**. "With the signing of this bill, New Jersey will recognize the tremendous impact this mineral has had on the construction of water, electric, and other crucial infrastructure we rely on every day."

"Franklinite is as unique to New Jersey as the Pine Barrens are, and was the driving force behind the state's thriving mining industry," said **Assemblyman Parker Space**. "The discovery and mining of this rare ore built Franklin. Its importance can't be overstated."

"There are many people to thank who helped get this bill to the Governor's desk," said **Assemblyman Hal Wirths**. "Jeff Osowski of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum built the momentum for this years ago; Bill Truran took a keen interest in organizing support when he became the Sussex County Historian in 2019; and all the students in Northern New Jersey who kept writing letters to get this bill through the legislative process and now signed into law. This is a great day for everyone involved."

"Franklinite, an ore only found in New Jersey, built a town and was a driving force in our state economy while benefitting millions around the globe," said **Assemblyman Kevin J. Rooney**. "It's fitting to name it the official state mineral."

"The Sterling Hill Mining Museum has been working for years to gain recognition for franklinite as the New Jersey State Mineral. It was one of the driving forces in the economic development of Sussex County in the 1800s," said **William Kroth, President and Executive Director of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Inc.** "After the franklinite ore was processed to remove the zinc, it then became the source of high manganese steel, which was vital for the railroad industry. Franklinite is found nowhere else in the world in as great a quantity as New Jersey. The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, a 501(c)(3) educational institution, is looking forward to building on this recognition in its outreach to students."