

27:12B - 5.1a

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 27:12B-5.1a

(Garden State Arts Center--"Count Basie Plaza")

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 312

Bill No: S2610

Sponsor(s): Lipman and Rand

Date Introduced: January 24, 1985

Committee: Assembly: Transportation and Communications

Senate: Transportation and Communications

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: June 27, 1985

Senate: May 2, 1985

Date of Approval: August 28, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes (Below)

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

Sponsors' Statement:

The purpose of this bill is to direct the New Jersey Highway Authority to designate the plaza in front of the Garden State Arts Center as the "Count Basie Plaza."

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SENATE, No. 2610

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 24, 1985

By Senators LIPMAN and RAND

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Communications

AN ACT directing the New Jersey Highway Authority to designate the plaza in front of the Garden State Arts Center as the "Count Basie Plaza."

1 WHEREAS, William "Count" Basie was born on August 21, 1904 in
2 Red Bank, New Jersey; and

3 WHEREAS, Count Basie received very little formal musical training,
4 but acquired most of his skill through practice and exposure to
5 other great jazz musicians; and

6 WHEREAS, After graduation from high school, Count Basie worked
7 as a musician with Elmer Snowden's band, June Clark and
8 Leroy's band in Harlem, all of which helped develop his unique
9 style and technique; and

10 WHEREAS, Count Basie began his musical career as a honky-tonk
11 piano player for vaudeville acts, working under the tutelage of
12 "Fats" Waller, the organist who played for the silent movie at
13 Harlem's Lincoln Theater; and

14 WHEREAS, Through Fats Waller, Count Basie adopted many stylistic
15 tricks of the Harlem-vaudeville stride pianists; and

16 WHEREAS, Eventually Count Basie left New York and went to
17 Kansas City which was a center of night life for a large area of
18 the Southwest; and

19 WHEREAS, In his years in Kansas City, Count Basie created the
20 style for which he is still known, using simple melodic phrases,
21 with relatively few notes to create the mood and tenor of the
22 song to come; and

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Senate committee amendments adopted February 25, 1985.**

23 WHEREAS, Count Basie also became known for his happy keyboard,
 24 finishing each song or rendition with his own special ending that
 25 was always a light, lilting melody; and

26 WHEREAS, His personality and remarkable rhythmic swing made
 27 “the Count” the last great pianist-bandleader of the swing era
 28 to gain popularity; and

29 WHEREAS, The Count’s accomplishments are ones ***[in]*** *of* which
 30 all New Jerseyans may be proud; now, therefore,

1 BE IT ***[RESOLVED]*** *ENACTED* *by the Senate and General Assem-*
 2 *bly of the State of New Jersey:*

1 1. The New Jersey Highway Authority is directed to designate
 2 the plaza in front of the Garden State Arts Center as the “Count
 3 Basie Plaza” and to display a plaque with that designation.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2610

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 1985

This bill directs the New Jersey Highway Authority to designate the plaza in front of the Garden State Arts Center as the "Count Basie Plaza."

The Committee reported the bill favorably.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2610

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 1985

The purpose of this bill is to direct the New Jersey Highway Authority to designate the plaza in front of the Garden State Arts Center as the "Count Basie Plaza."

Amendments approved by the committee are technical in nature.