

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION memorializing George Ward upon the 120th anniversary of his death.

FORD JON

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

SENATE RESOLUTION _____

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION memorializing George Ward
2 upon the 120th anniversary of his death.

3 *Whereas, On February 26, 1901, George Ward was the*
4 *victim of a brutal lynching in Terre Haute, Indiana;*

5 *Whereas, After being accused of the murder of a local*
6 *teacher, Ward was jailed and later beaten and hanged by a*
7 *violent White mob;*

8 *Whereas, Lynching was a horrific, but regular practice*
9 *within the United States until the middle of the 20th century;*

10 *Whereas, There were over 4,000 lynching victims,*
11 *predominantly African Americans, within the United States*
12 *between 1877 and 1968, and the vast majority of its*
13 *perpetrators have escaped justice;*

14 *Whereas, Lynching did not exclusively occur within the*
15 *American South, and Indiana must reconcile with its own dark*
16 *history with racial injustice;*

17 *Whereas, The last known lynching in Indiana is believed to*

2021

RR 3541/DI NM



1 *have occurred on August 7, 1930;*

2 *Whereas, Ward was survived by his wife, Ruth Roberts*
3 *Ward, and their two children, who remained in Terre Haute,*
4 *were affected by this injustice, and all of their descendants*
5 *continue to be affected;*

6 *Whereas, Some descendants of George Ward still remain in*
7 *Terre Haute to this day, and on March 1, 2020, the George*
8 *Ward descendants and the local community held a soil*
9 *collection ceremony for Ward to honor his memory; and*

10 *Whereas, While the past cannot be rectified, understanding*
11 *and recognizing Indiana's share in the history of lynching is*
12 *necessary to begin the healing process and prevent similar*
13 *actions in the future: Therefore,*

14 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
15 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

16 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate memorializes George
17 Ward.

18 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
19 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the family of George
20 Ward.

