

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1291**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1291.

This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$90,000 to the Department of State for the purposes of erecting a statue of “Jersey” Joe Walcott. The appropriation would be directly distributed to the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

A native of Camden County, “Jersey” Joe Walcott was an accomplished boxer whose career spanned over 20 years. Walcott became the Heavyweight Champion of the World on July 18, 1951, becoming the oldest boxer to hold that title at the time. His boxing career earned him a spot in the World Boxing Hall of Fame and the International Boxing Hall of Fame. After his boxing career, Walcott served as a boxing referee and was elected as the first African American Sheriff of Camden County in 1971. From 1975 to 1984, he was the chairman of the New Jersey State Athletic Commission.