

Date of Hearing: August 18, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
SCR 99 (Allen) – As Introduced July 9, 2025

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** Eunice Newton Foote.

**SUMMARY:** Proclaims July 17, 2025, as Eunice Newton Foote Day to ensure that all Californians recognize and honor the incalculable scientific and social contributions of Eunice Newton Foote and the countless women whose contributions have been overlooked. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Eunice Newton Foote was a principal activist in the women’s rights movement, an inventor, and a groundbreaking scientist whose work helped establish the field of climate science.
- 2) Born Eunice Newton on July 17, 1819, the 206th anniversary of which will be recognized on July 17, 2025, Eunice Newton Foote lived in Seneca Falls, New York. She was a key figure in the Seneca Falls Convention, held on July 19 to 20 in 1848, and a signatory to the Declaration of Sentiments, which demanded suffrage as well as social and legal equality for women.
- 3) As an amateur scientist and distant relative of Sir Isaac Newton, Foote conducted a series of experiments in the 1850s analyzing the interaction of the sun’s rays on a fixed volume of various gases, from which she demonstrated that carbon dioxide was heated to a higher temperature by the same exposure to sunlight and cooled more slowly than air, and the influence of the water content of a gas on heat retention.
- 4) Foote laid out her findings and conclusions in her paper “Circumstances Affecting the Heat of the Sun’s Rays,” which she submitted for the 10th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), marking the first published work to recognize climatic warming caused by an increased proportion of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 5) Upon its complete publication in the 1856 edition of the American Journal of Science and Arts, Foote’s paper became the first physics publication written by an American woman outside the field of astronomy to be included in a scientific journal, later being printed or summarized in a myriad of journals throughout 1856 and 1857.
- 6) Prior to her death in 1888, the only two physics papers by American women published in scientific journals were Foote’s 1856 and 1857 papers, joined by only 14 more papers by American women during the 19th century.
- 7) The State of California and the entire scientific community are deeply indebted to Eunice Newton Foote, a truly distinguished American and the founder of modern climate science.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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