

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 63

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Dunn and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of March of each year as “Irish-American Heritage Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/28/2022)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of March of each year
2 as “Irish-American Heritage Month” in New Jersey and
3 amending P.L1997, J.R.2.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Many Irish people emigrated from Ireland to the United
6 States in search of better economic opportunities, political and
7 religious freedom, and to escape famine, poverty, and oppression in
8 their native land; and
9 **WHEREAS**, While emigration from Ireland has occurred in every
10 period of American history, the most well- known mass emigration
11 from Ireland to the United States occurred in the mid-19th century
12 during the Great Famine, a period of mass starvation and disease in
13 Ireland that occurred due to the failure of the potato crop; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Despite often arriving destitute, Irish-Americans
15 contributed significantly to the culture and economic growth of the
16 United States by taking less desirable and often dangerous jobs,
17 such as domestic work, farming, coal mining, and the building of
18 roads, bridges, canals, and railroads; and
19 **WHEREAS**, There was a mass emigration of Irish to the United States
20 in the years prior to the Civil War and an estimated 150,000 Irish
21 immigrants served in the Union Army, with Irish units suffering
22 casualties of over 40 percent at Fredericksburg and playing a key
23 role in the defeat of Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Through hard work and determination, Americans of Irish
25 descent achieved social and occupational gains through the
26 generations and became teachers, policemen, firemen, lawyers,
27 authors, artists, business owners, athletes, soldiers, and politicians;
28 and
29 **WHEREAS**, According to the United States Census, approximately 32
30 million Americans report having Irish ancestry and 1.3 million
31 people in New Jersey claimed Irish heritage; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Notable Irish-Americans from New Jersey have influenced
33 the United States and New Jersey, such as President Grover
34 Cleveland, musician Bruce Springsteen, actors John Travolta and
35 Anne Hathaway, professor and human rights activist Edward
36 Neafsey, and United States Supreme Court Justice William J.
37 Brennan; and
38 **WHEREAS**, March is a significant month in Irish-American history and
39 culture because the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of
40 Ireland, is celebrated on March 17 and the day is now recognized
41 throughout the country and State as an occasion to celebrate Irish-
42 American history and culture through parades and celebrations; and
43 **WHEREAS**, The week including March 17 is currently designated as
44 “Irish-American History and Heritage Week” in New Jersey; 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 underlined thus is new matter.

1 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey can recognize Irish-American
2 contributions to the culture and economic growth of the United
3 States and the State of New Jersey, acknowledge the historical
4 struggles of Irish-Americans, and recognize individuals with Irish
5 ancestry by designing the month of March as “Irish-American
6 Heritage Month” in New Jersey; now, therefore,
7

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
9 *State of New Jersey:*
10

11 1. Section 1 of P.L.1997, J.R.2 (C.36:2-43) is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 a. The week including March 17 of every year is designated as
14 “Irish-American History and Heritage Week”.

15 b. The month of March of each year is designated as “Irish-
16 American Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey to recognize
17 and celebrate the contributions of Irish-Americans.

18 c. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
19 proclamation recognizing “Irish-American History and Heritage
20 Week” and “Irish-American Heritage Month” in New Jersey, and
21 call upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe the
22 day with appropriate activities and programs.

23 (cf: P.L.1997, J.R.2, s.1)
24

25 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.