

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 152

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Designates first week in August as “Adult Diaper Need Awareness Week” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** designating the first week of August
2 as “Adult Diaper Need Awareness Week” in New Jersey.
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Twenty-five million American adults suffer from various
5 forms of incontinence; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, Urinary incontinence, the loss of bladder control, is more
7 common in older people, especially women; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, The National Poll on Healthy Aging found that nearly half
9 of women ages 50 and older report urine leakage, due to female-
10 specific factors such as pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause but
11 often do not tell their doctor; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, Persons living with chronic illnesses such as Alzheimer’s
13 disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis, or Parkinson’s disease can
14 also experience incontinence; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, In addition, many persons with disabilities are obliged to
16 wear diapers for a variety of reasons, incontinence and the inability
17 to use a bathroom unaided among the most common; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, The only way for older Americans, the disabled, and
19 persons living with chronic illnesses to manage and lead as normal
20 of a life as possible is through the use products that are specifically
21 catered to managing incontinence, most notably adult diapers; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, A person with a moderate amount of urine leakage may
23 use two to four disposable diapers each day, at a cost averaging
24 \$80–\$160 per month. However, if a person needs adult diapers for
25 all their urinary needs, the cost can be between \$200-\$300 per
26 month for adult briefs and other incontinence products; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, Often, people dealing with incontinence problems are
28 among those who have the fewest resources. Most of these people
29 are older adults, many of whom may be living on limited incomes
30 with limited buying power once medical expenses are factored in;
31 and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, According to the Cornell University Online Resource for
33 U.S. Disability Statistics, in 2009, an estimated 26.4 percent of the
34 population with a disability between the ages of 21 and 64 had
35 incomes below the poverty line; and
- 36 **WHEREAS**, Though the official census data gives seniors a 2020
37 poverty rate of 9.5 percent, the Supplemental Poverty Measure,
38 which accounts for expenses such as the rising costs of health care
39 and medical supplies, raises the American senior poverty rate to
40 20.4 percent; and
- 41 **WHEREAS**, Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to
42 keep an infant, a toddler, or an adult with incontinence clean, dry,
43 and healthy; and
- 44 **WHEREAS**, Adults managing incontinence who are living in poverty or
45 who have limited incomes often lack access to adult diapers and
46 other incontinence supplies; and

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- 1 **WHEREAS**, Adults with incontinence who cannot afford diapers can
2 end up isolated and embarrassed, worried about how they smell, or
3 what might happen if a restroom is not nearby; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, An inadequate supply of adult diapers or inferior
5 incontinence products also pose many health risks, including rashes
6 and urinary tract infections, and can lead to anxiety and depression;
7 and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Very few private health insurance plans cover the cost of
9 adult diapers and other incontinence products; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, Federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid and
11 Medicare have varying procedures and requirements relating to
12 insurance coverage for adult diapers and other incontinence
13 products; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, Adult diapers and other incontinence products must be
15 medically necessary for Medicaid to cover the cost of their
16 purchase. If not a medical necessity, a person may have to pay 100
17 percent of the cost out of pocket. In most states, Medicaid
18 programs cover adult diapers, though the amount varies; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, Medicare Part C, or Medicare Advantage, provides the
20 same coverage as Medicare parts A and B, in conjunction with
21 certain other benefits. Although most Medicare Advantage plans
22 do not cover adult diapers, some offer coverage for over-the-
23 counter supplies, which does include adult diapers; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, Diapers banks are a resource for those who cannot afford
25 to purchase needed incontinence products due to financial
26 difficulties; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, In many cases, adult diapers made available through diaper
28 banks are free, though each group has specific policies about
29 products, services, and distribution; and
- 30 **WHEREAS**, Most diaper banks collect products by collaborating with
31 diaper partners, organizations, and individuals as well as through
32 monetary donations; and
- 33 **WHEREAS**, The coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic has
34 contributed to economic adversity and revealed and worsened many
35 long-standing societal issues; and
- 36 **WHEREAS**, Diaper banks that distribute adult diapers and other
37 incontinence products report a surging demand, and have scrambled
38 to find new ways to distribute these products as other agencies that
39 serve older adults shut down or reduced their operations because of
40 the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- 41 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey recognizes that adult diaper need
42 is a public health issue and by addressing the issue of, and raising
43 public awareness about, adult diaper need, the citizens of the New
44 Jersey can ensure that all adults suffering from incontinence will
45 have access to clean diapers and other incontinence products
46 required for daily living; now, therefore;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey:*

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4 1. The first week in August shall be designated as “Adult
5 Diaper Need Awareness Week” in the State of New Jersey in order
6 to recognize that adult diaper need is a public health issue, raise
7 awareness of adult diaper need, and ensure that all adults suffering
8 from incontinence will have access to clean diapers and other
9 incontinence products required for daily living.

10

11 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
12 proclamation recognizing the first week in August as “Adult Diaper
13 Need Awareness Week” in New Jersey and calling upon public
14 officials, the citizens of the State, and other interested groups to
15 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

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STATEMENT

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20 This resolution designates the first week in August as “Adult
21 Diaper Need Awareness Week” in the State of New Jersey in order
22 to recognize that adult diaper need is a public health issue, raise
23 awareness of adult diaper need, and ensure that all adults suffering
24 from incontinence will have access to clean diapers and other
25 incontinence products required for daily living.

26 Twenty-five million American adults suffer from various forms
27 of incontinence, and urinary incontinence, the loss of bladder
28 control, is more common in older people, especially women.

29 Persons living with chronic illnesses such as Alzheimer’s,
30 disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis, or Parkinson’s disease, and
31 those who are disabled, can also experience incontinence.

32 The only way for older Americans, the disabled, and persons
33 living with chronic illnesses to manage and lead as normal of a life
34 as possible is through the use products that are specifically catered
35 to managing incontinence, most notably adult diapers.

36 A person with a moderate amount of urine leakage may use two
37 to four disposable diapers each day, at a cost averaging \$80–\$160
38 per month. However, if a person needs adult diapers for all their
39 urinary needs, the cost can be between \$200-\$300 per month for
40 adult briefs and other incontinence products.

41 Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep
42 an infant, a toddler, or an adult with incontinence clean, dry, and
43 healthy.

44 Often, people dealing with incontinence problems are among
45 those who have the fewest resources, and adults managing
46 incontinence who are living in poverty or who have limited incomes

1 may not have access to adult diapers and other incontinence
2 supplies.

3 An inadequate supply of adult diapers or inferior incontinence
4 products poses many health risks, including rashes and urinary tract
5 infections, and can lead to anxiety and depression.

6 Diapers banks are a resource for people who cannot afford to
7 purchase needed incontinence products due to financial difficulties
8 and, in many cases, adult diapers made available through diaper
9 banks are free.

10 However, the fact that federal health insurance programs such as
11 Medicaid and Medicare have varying procedures and requirements
12 relating to insurance coverage for incontinence products, and the
13 coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic has amplified
14 economic hardships, adults suffering with incontinence often lack
15 access to adult diapers and other products that are essential for daily
16 living.

17 Raising public awareness of adult diaper need will ensure that
18 adults with incontinence will no longer struggle with inadequate
19 supplies of adult diapers or inferior incontinence products and will
20 be able to manage and lead as normal of a life as possible.