

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 59

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman WILLIAM B. SAMPSON, IV

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DONALD A. GUARDIAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

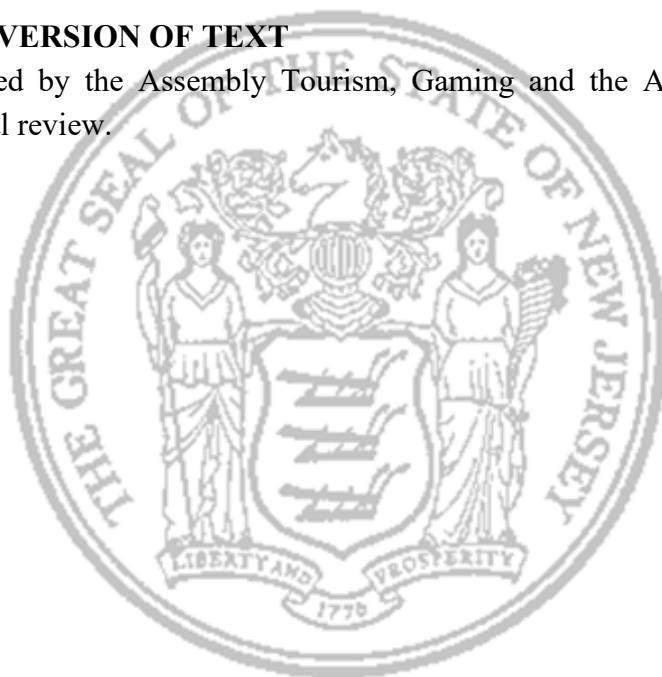
Assemblyman Inganamort

SYNOPSIS

Designates May 15 of each year as "Water Safety Day" in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/28/2026)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May 15 of each year as “Water
2 Safety Day” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Water safety involves proactive measures to prevent
5 drowning, accidents, and injuries in proximity to bodies of water;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, The Red Cross specifies water competence as maintaining
8 awareness of water conditions, knowing physical limitations, and
9 never swimming alone; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Safe water activity requires supervision, access to safety
11 equipment, and awareness of lifesaving techniques; and

12 **WHEREAS**, When practiced safely, water activities may encourage
13 healthy development, improved confidence, and collective
14 wellbeing; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Drowning is a costly public health issue, often caused by
16 risky water behavior; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children
18 ages one to 14, and a leading cause for ages one to 17; and

19 **WHEREAS**, More children ages one through four die from drowning
20 than from any other cause, except birth defects; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Drowning results in over 4,000 unintentional fatalities
22 each year, accounting for an estimated \$53 billion in direct and
23 indirect costs; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Worldwide, drowning claims 236,000 lives annually; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Over half of all fatal and nonfatal drownings among those
26 15 years and older occur in natural waters such as rivers, lakes, and
27 oceans; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Victims of drowning are disproportionately individuals of
29 color, and 45 percent of Hispanic children and 64 percent of
30 African-American children lack the ability to swim; and

31 **WHEREAS**, African-American children ages five through 19 are 5.5
32 times more likely to drown in a swimming pool; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Providing formal swim lessons for youth under four has
34 been shown to reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent; and

35 **WHEREAS**, May 15 is National and International Water Safety Day,
36 designed to raise public awareness of safe water practices; and

37 **WHEREAS**, It is reasonable, necessary, and in the public interest for
38 this State to adopt measures to raise awareness for behaviors that
39 prevent water-related harms; now, therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
42 *State of New Jersey:*

43
44 1. May 15 of each year is designated as “Water Safety Day” in
45 New Jersey to raise awareness for safe water practices and accident
46 prevention.

AJR59 REYNOLDS-JACKSON, SAMPSON

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1 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
2 proclamation recognizing “Water Safety Day” in New Jersey, and
3 to call upon public officials and citizens of this State to annually
4 observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

5

6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.