

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 86

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER

District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Scharfenberger, Assemblywomen Carter, Speight,

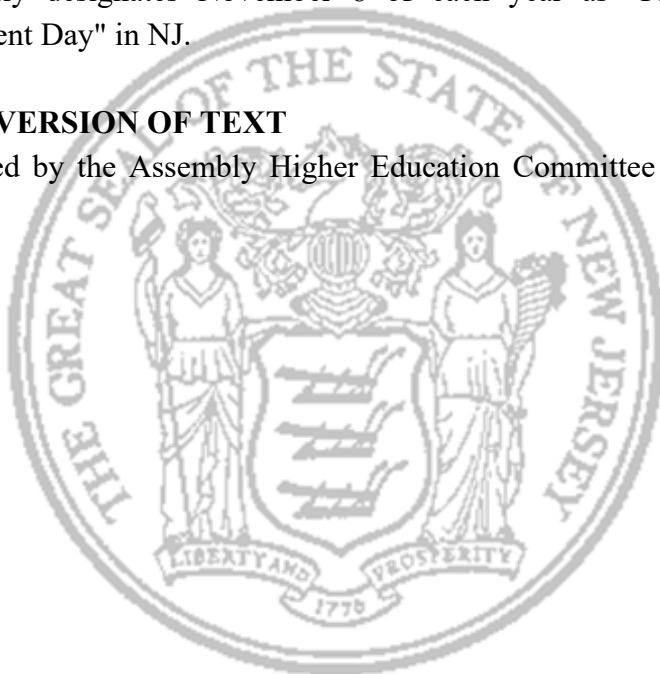
Assemblyman Kearney and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designates November 8 of each year as "First-Generation College Student Day" in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2026)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating November 8 of
2 each year as “First-Generation College Student Day” in New
3 Jersey.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students are the first in their
6 family to attend and graduate from an institution of higher
7 education; and
8 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that 56 percent of all current college
9 students are first-generation college students; and
10 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students face substantial barriers
11 and unique challenges when navigating the academic, financial, and
12 social aspects of college; and
13 **WHEREAS**, These students often overcome financial hardships, a lack
14 of familial guidance, and system inequalities that make access to
15 and completion of college more difficult; and
16 **WHEREAS**, November 8th is nationally recognized as “First-
17 Generation College Student Day” to honor first-generation college
18 students who are paving the way for future generations in their
19 family; and
20 **WHEREAS**, November 8th honors the anniversary of the signing of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss.1001 et seq.) by
22 President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The Higher Education Act of 1965 focused on increasing
24 postsecondary education access and success for students,
25 particularly low-income and first-generation college students; and
26 **WHEREAS**, “First-Generation College Student Day” is celebrated
27 nationally by institutions of higher education and organizations
28 across the country who recognize and support first-generation
29 students through various events and initiatives; and
30 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students contribute significantly to
31 the workforce, innovation, and economic and social advancement
32 of the State; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Designating November 8th as “First-Generation College
34 Student Day” in New Jersey will promote awareness, encourage
35 institutional support, and highlight the achievements of first-
36 generation students; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature finds it altogether fitting and proper to
38 permanently designate November 8th of each year as “First-
39 Generation College Student Day” to recognize the perseverance,
40 resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation students and to
41 encourage initiatives to promote the success of those students; now,
42 therefore,
43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*
46
47 1. November 8 of each year shall be permanently designated as
48 “First-Generation College Student Day” to recognize the

- 1 perseverance, resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation
2 students and to encourage initiatives to promote the success of those
3 students.
4
- 5 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
6 proclamation recognizing November 8 as “First-Generation College
7 Student Day” in New Jersey, and calling upon institutions of higher
8 education, public officials, and citizens of the State to observe this
9 day with appropriate activities and programs.
10
- 11 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.