

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 12

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates third full week in March as "Horticultural Therapy Week."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/18/2014)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the third full week in March of
2 each year as “Horticultural Therapy Week” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy is the time-proven practice of using
5 therapeutic benefits of working in a peaceful and non-threatening
6 garden environment indoors or outdoors, and using horticulture as a
7 modality to improve the quality of life; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy is practiced through vocational,
9 therapeutic, and social programs, and successfully enables and
10 empowers individuals to achieve their maximum independence in
11 settings such as hospitals, correctional facilities, public schools,
12 senior centers, and community gardens; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy gained prominence in the United
14 States in rehabilitating wounded veterans of World War II through
15 the assistance of volunteers and trained professionals, and continues
16 today in veterans’ hospitals across the country; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy brings dignity and enhanced skills by
18 allowing individuals to grow and function to the best of their
19 abilities, and helps individuals such as those recovering from illness
20 or injury, the elderly, socially disadvantaged individuals, and
21 individuals with disabilities; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Awareness and growth of the profession of horticultural
23 therapy is being realized through increased educational
24 opportunities, beginning with the first Master of Science degree in
25 horticultural therapy, awarded by Michigan State University in
26 1955, and continuing across the country in universities, colleges,
27 and community colleges, and through horticultural therapy
28 certificate programs; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The American Horticultural Therapy Association, a
30 nonprofit organization that is federally tax-exempt pursuant to
31 section 501 (c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26
32 U.S.C.s.501(c)(3), provides opportunities for registered
33 horticultural therapy professionals to share research, professionals
34 standards, and best practices, as well as for the public to obtain
35 information and resources; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy was practiced by Dr. Benjamin Rush,
37 a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Horticultural therapy is beneficial for people of all ages
39 and all walks of life in a wide variety of rehabilitative, health care,
40 and residential settings, providing benefits directly through formal
41 programs with trained horticultural therapy professionals, and
42 providing benefits indirectly through encouraging the designation
43 and creation of public gardens and community gardens; and
44 **WHEREAS**, The designation of a week in this State to coincide with
45 “National Horticultural Therapy Week” would assist in increasing
46 awareness of horticultural therapy and related matters; now,
47 therefore,

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

3

4 1. The third full week in March of each year is designated as
5 “Horticultural Therapy Week” in New Jersey to increase public
6 awareness of the importance of horticultural therapy in improving
7 the quality of life for all and increasing opportunities for each
8 individual to experience the endless benefits of the people-plant
9 connection.

10

11 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation recognizing the
12 third full week in March of each year as “Horticultural Therapy
13 Week” and calling upon public officials and the citizens of this
14 State to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

15

16 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This joint resolution designates the third full week in March of
22 each year as “Horticultural Therapy Week” in New Jersey to
23 increase public awareness of the importance of horticultural therapy
24 in improving the quality of life for all and increasing opportunities
25 for each individual to experience the endless benefits of the people-
26 plant connection.

27

28 The joint resolution directs the Governor to issue a proclamation
29 recognizing the third full week in March of each year as
30 “Horticultural Therapy Week” and calling upon public officials and
31 the citizens of this State to observe the week with appropriate
activities and programs.