

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman ARTHUR BARCLAY

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

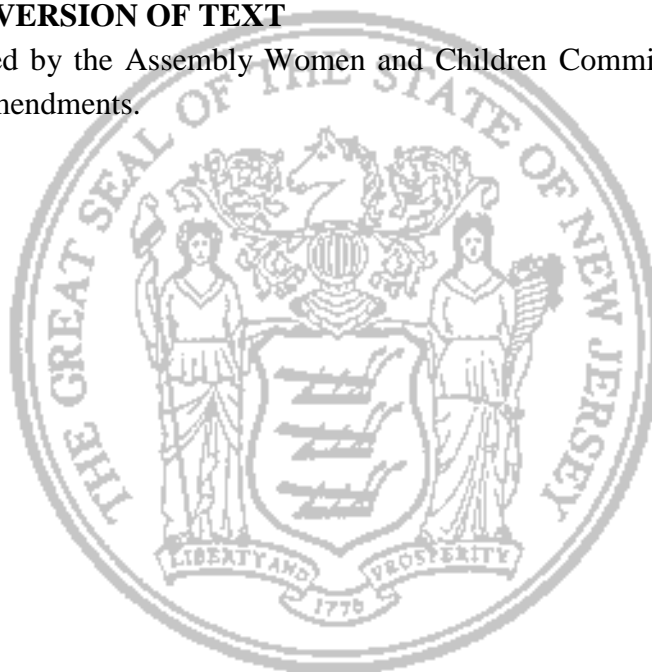
Assemblywoman Mosquera and Assemblyman Holley

SYNOPSIS

Designates fourth week in April of each year as “Every Kid Healthy Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on June 5, 2017, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/1/2017)

- 1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the fourth week in April of each
2 year as “Every Kid Healthy Week” in New Jersey.
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s future depends on the health and vitality
5 of its children, however, childhood health issues, such as obesity,
6 food insecurity, and physical inactivity, threaten to limit this
7 State’s bright future; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, For example, only 27 percent of New Jersey’s children
9 meet the recommended weekly level of physical activity, while
10 over a third do not eat fruits and vegetables on a daily basis; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, Consequently, roughly 94,000 children in New Jersey
12 between the ages of 10 and 17 are considered obese, and an
13 estimated 82,000 high school students in this State are
14 considered overweight; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, This childhood health crisis not only harms the physical
16 and mental development of New Jersey’s children, but also
17 causes increasing obesity-related healthcare costs to be placed on
18 this State’s taxpayers; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, Children who are considered obese or overweight are
20 dramatically more likely to suffer from obesity as adults; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, Obesity in adults is highly correlated with physical
22 health issues, such as cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes,
23 asthma, arthritis, hypertension, stroke, and various forms of
24 cancer, as well as mental health issues, such as depression,
25 anxiety, and chronic low self-esteem; and
- 26 **WHEREAS**, These physical and mental illnesses, which are shown to
27 negatively impact social relationships and work performance,
28 directly undercut the ability of every child in New Jersey to
29 achieve their life-long dreams and ambitions; and
- 30 **WHEREAS**, Society also pays a high price for this obesity epidemic
31 as public funds are increasingly used to cover rising obesity-
32 related healthcare costs; and
- 33 **WHEREAS**, Obese adults spent over 40 percent more on healthcare
34 compared to healthy adults and place a disproportionate cost
35 burden on Medicaid and Medicare, which together cover over
36 half of the obesity-related medical spending in the nation; and
- 37 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey Department of Health, “if
38 the prevalence of obesity continues to rise, New Jersey’s obesity-
39 related health care spending could quadruple to \$9.3 billion by
40 2018”; and
- 41 **WHEREAS**, Responding to this national crisis, “Every Kid Healthy
42 Week” was launched as a part of the national movement to
43 combat childhood obesity, promote healthy lifestyle choices for
44 today’s children, and celebrate school wellness achievements;
45 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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted June 5, 2017.

1 **WHEREAS**, This movement supports schools, parents, and health
2 clubs to “implement wellness¹**[initiates]** initiatives¹ that
3 promote and reinforce healthy eating, physical activity, nutrition
4 education and physical education in order to increase student
5 achievement”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, By promoting lifestyle choices that are both healthy and
7 practical, “Every Kid Health Week” not only brings attention to
8 the obesity epidemic, but, more importantly, provides at-risk
9 children with a pathway towards healthy living and life-long
10 achievement; and

11 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for New Jersey to
12 annually observe “Every Kid Healthy Week,” so as to maximize
13 the potential of every child in New Jersey and ensure the vitality
14 of this great State in the decades to come; now, therefore,

15
16 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
17 *State of New Jersey:*

18
19 1. The fourth week in April of each year is designated as
20 “Every Kid Healthy Week” in the State of New Jersey to promote
21 healthy lifestyle choices for the State’s youth and draw attention to
22 the risks of childhood obesity.

23
24 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
25 proclamation designating the fourth week in April as “Every Kid
26 Healthy Week” and shall call upon the public officials and citizens
27 of this State to observe the week with appropriate activities and
28 programs.

29
30 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.