

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

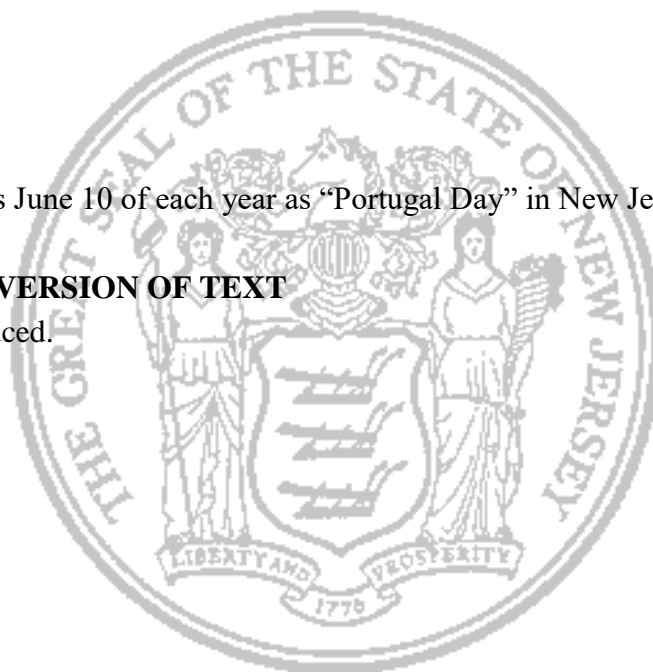
Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen DiMaso and Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 10 of each year as “Portugal Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/31/2019)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June 10 of each year as
2 “Portugal Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The people of Portugal and their culture have influenced
5 the world for centuries, from their pioneering voyages to the “New
6 World” to their significant contributions to the arts and humanities;
7 and
8 **WHEREAS**, Portuguese immigrants began arriving in the United States
9 in relatively large numbers beginning in 1870; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Among the great Portuguese-Americans who have
11 contributed significantly to this country are composer John Philip
12 Sousa, best known for composing “The Stars and Stripes Forever,”
13 and poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue
14 of Liberty; and
15 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, specifically in the city of Newark, a great
16 influx of Portuguese immigrants arrived in the latter part of the
17 1950s and settled in the Ironbound section of the city; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work, these
19 pioneering Portuguese immigrants established many businesses in
20 Newark, including restaurants, cafes, bakeries, and more, many of
21 which are still Portuguese-owned businesses today; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The United States Census Bureau estimates that over
23 76,000 citizens in New Jersey identify as Portuguese and
24 Portuguese-American; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Given the “vitality, dynamism and connection to the roots
26 of the Portuguese community,” Portugal established a Consulate
27 General of Portugal in Newark, which serves as a resource and a
28 link between Portugal and the Portuguese communities in New
29 Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Portuguese national literary icon Luís Vaz de Camões
31 wrote Portugal’s national epic poem, *Os Lusíadas*, celebrating the
32 15th-century Portuguese explorations that brought fame and fortune
33 to the country; and
34 **WHEREAS**, *Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades*
35 *Portuguesas*, translated as “Day of Portugal, Camões, and the
36 Portuguese Communities,” commemorates the death of Luís Vaz de
37 Camões on June 10, 1580; and
38 **WHEREAS**, In Newark, the “Portugal Day Festival,” which celebrates
39 the Portuguese people, language, and culture, has been held on the
40 weekend closest to June 10 every year since 1979 and attracts over
41 750,000 people to Ferry Street in the Ironbound section of the city;
42 and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate that June 10 of each year be designated as
44 “Portugal Day” in the State of New Jersey to celebrate the
45 Portuguese people and to acknowledge their historical and cultural
46 significance to this State and the United States of America; now,
47 therefore,

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

3

4 1. June 10 of each year is designated as “Portugal Day” in the
5 State of New Jersey to celebrate the Portuguese people, language,
6 and culture and to acknowledge their significance to the State of
7 New Jersey and the United States of America.

8

9 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
10 proclamation and call upon public officials, and all citizens of this
11 State, to observe “Portugal Day” with appropriate programs and
12 activities.

13

14 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This resolution designates June 10 of each year as “Portugal
20 Day” in New Jersey to celebrate the Portuguese people, language,
21 and culture and to acknowledge their significance to this State and
22 the United States of America.

23 Portuguese national literary icon Luís Vaz de Camões wrote
24 Portugal’s national epic poem, *Os Lusíadas*, celebrating the 15th-
25 century Portuguese explorations that brought fame and fortune to
26 the country. *Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades*
27 *Portuguesas*, translated as “Day of Portugal, Camões, and the
28 Portuguese Communities,” commemorates the death of Luís Vaz de
29 Camões on June 10, 1580.

30 In New Jersey, specifically in the city of Newark, a great influx
31 of Portuguese immigrants arrived in the latter part of the 1950s.
32 Many of those new immigrants settled in the Ironbound
33 neighborhood. The United States Census Bureau estimates that
34 over 76,000 citizens in New Jersey identify as Portuguese and
35 Portuguese-American.

36 Because of the significant Portuguese presence and influence in
37 New Jersey, events already exist which acknowledge the historical
38 and cultural significance of June 10. In Newark, the “Portugal Day
39 Festival,” which celebrates the Portuguese people, language, and
40 culture, has been held on the weekend closest to June 10 every year
41 since 1979 and attracts over 750,000 people to Ferry Street in the
42 Ironbound neighborhood of Newark.