

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 243

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Recognizes contributions of Special Olympics.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/11/2019)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** recognizing the contributions of the
2 Special Olympics.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Special Olympics is an unprecedented global event
5 that, through quality sports training and competition, enhances the
6 lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and in turn the
7 lives of everyone who meet and know those individuals; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The first Special Olympics was held on July 20, 1968, in
9 Chicago, Illinois, with approximately 1,000 athletes from the
10 United States and Canada; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The most recent Special Olympics, which took place in the
12 United Arab Emirates from March 14, 2019 to March 21, 2019,
13 attracted 7,500 athletes from 190 nations and was the largest event
14 in Special Olympics World Games history; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The Special Olympics provides year-round training and
16 competitions to more than five million athletes in 190 nations; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In addition, the Special Olympics Unified Sports initiative
18 joins over one million individuals with and without intellectual
19 disabilities on the same team to train together and play together to
20 improve understanding and forge friendships; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The Special Olympics allows individuals with intellectual
22 disabilities to realize their full potential and develop skills,
23 becoming fulfilled members of their families and the communities
24 in which they live; and
25 **WHEREAS**, To the greatest extent possible, Special Olympics activities
26 are run by and involve local volunteers to create greater
27 opportunities for public understanding and participation with
28 individuals with intellectual disabilities; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Aside from the physical benefits of the Special Olympics,
30 the athletes gain many emotional and psychological benefits,
31 including self-confidence, social confidence, higher self-esteem,
32 and a decrease in anxiety; and
33 **WHEREAS**, In 1997, the Special Olympics began an initiative called
34 “Healthy Athletes,” which offers health screenings to athletes in
35 need; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Since the “Healthy Athletes” program began, the Special
37 Olympics has conducted more than 1.9 million screenings and is the
38 largest global public health organization dedicated to serving
39 individuals with intellectual disabilities in New Jersey; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey has a long history of providing
41 sports programs and opportunities for individuals with intellectual
42 disabilities; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Special Olympics New Jersey is a not-for-profit
44 organization dedicated to providing year-round sports training and
45 athletic competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities;
46 and
47 **WHEREAS**, In addition to providing training and competition
48 opportunities in 24 sports, Special Olympics New Jersey offers

1 health, wellness, athletic leadership, and Unified Sports programs to
2 25,000 athletes across the State, all completely free of charge; and
3 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to recognize the
4 significant contributions of the Special Olympics and reaffirm the
5 continued support of the Special Olympics; now, therefore,

6
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
8 Jersey:

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10 1. This House recognizes the laudable goals, significant
11 contributions and great success, and reaffirms its continued support,
12 of the Special Olympics.

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14 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
15 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
16 Chairman of the Special Olympics and each officer of the Board of
17 Directors of the Special Olympics.

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20 STATEMENT

21
22 This resolution recognizes the significant contributions of the
23 Special Olympics and reaffirms its continued support of the Special
24 Olympics.

25 The Special Olympics is an unprecedented global event that,
26 through quality sports training and competition, enhances the lives
27 of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and in turn the lives of
28 everyone they meet and know. The Special Olympics provides
29 year-round training and competitions to more than five million
30 athletes in 190 nations. In addition, the Special Olympics Unified
31 Sports initiative joins over one million individuals with and without
32 intellectual disabilities on the same team to train together and play
33 together to improve understanding and forge friendships. The
34 Special Olympics allows individuals with intellectual disabilities to
35 realize their full potential and develop skills to become fulfilled
36 members of their families and the communities in which they live.
37 Special Olympics activities are run by and involve local volunteers
38 to create greater opportunities for public understanding and
39 participation with individuals with intellectual disabilities.

40 Aside from the physical benefits of the Special Olympics, the
41 athletes gain many emotional and psychological benefits, including
42 self-confidence, social confidence, higher self-esteem, and a
43 decrease in anxiety. "Healthy Athletes," a Special Olympics
44 initiative which offers health screenings to athletes in need, is the
45 largest global public health organization dedicated to serving
46 individuals with intellectual disabilities.

47 The State of New Jersey has a long history of providing sports,
48 health, wellness, and athletic leadership programs and opportunities

AR243 PETERSON, VAINIERI HUTTLE

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1 for over 25,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities. Special
2 Olympics New Jersey is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to
3 providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for
4 individuals with intellectual disabilities.