

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 16

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado and Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 4 of each year as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/8/2018)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating June 4 as "Tourette
2 Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey.
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an inherited neurological
5 disorder, named for Georges Gilles de la Tourette, the neurologist
6 who first described the condition; and

7 **WHEREAS**, TS is characterized by repetitive, involuntary physical and
8 vocal tics that occur many times a day; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Tics experienced by persons with TS are classified as
10 simple or complex. Simple tics are sudden, brief, repetitive
11 motions or vocalizations including eye blinking, shoulder
12 shrugging, repetitive throat clearing, or grunting sounds; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Complex tics are distinct, coordinated patterns of
14 movements or sounds that include facial grimacing combined with
15 head twisting and shoulder shrugging, jumping, repeating the words
16 or phrases of others (echolalia), or uttering socially inappropriate
17 words such as swearing (coprolalia); and

18 **WHEREAS**, TS is a diagnosis that physicians make after verifying that
19 a patient has had both motor and vocal tics for at least one year; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Because physicians, unfamiliar with TS, sometimes
21 consider common tic symptoms inconsequential, part of a
22 developmental phase, or the result of another condition, many
23 patients are self-diagnosed after they, their parents, or their friends
24 read or hear about TS; and

25 **WHEREAS**, TS is frequently accompanied by other neurobehavioral
26 problems that cause more impairment than the tics themselves.
27 These include attention deficit disorder, attention deficit
28 hyperactivity disorder, or obsessive compulsive disorder, learning
29 disabilities, and impulsivity; and

30 **WHEREAS**, A person with TS may also have problems with
31 depression, anxiety, and day-to-day activities, which may or may
32 not be directly related to the disorder; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Although a person with TS may experience a significant
34 decline in motor and vocal tics in late adolescence and early
35 adulthood, the associated neurobehavioral conditions may persist
36 well into adulthood; and

37 **WHEREAS**, More than 20,000 school age children in New Jersey are
38 suffering from TS, and there is no standard treatment or known cure
39 for the disorder; and

40 **WHEREAS**, While some cases of TS are aided by medication, these
41 medications do not completely eliminate symptoms. They often
42 have severe side effects such as sedation, weight gain, and
43 cognitive dulling; and

44 **WHEREAS**, Research on TS is being conducted across a number of
45 medical and scientific disciplines, including genetics,
46 neuroimaging, clinical trials, and epidemiology; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, This research is necessary to help strengthen clinical
2 diagnosis, improve genetic counseling, and provide clues for more
3 effective therapies for people with TS; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Raising public awareness of TS, and educating physicians,
5 other health care professionals, and school personnel about the
6 condition, will help to improve the quality of life of all people
7 touched by TS and encourage the research necessary to identify the
8 cause of TS, control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder;
9 now, therefore,

10

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
12 *State of New Jersey:*

13

14 1. June 4 of each year is designated as "Tourette Syndrome
15 Awareness Day" in New Jersey to raise public awareness of
16 Tourette Syndrome (TS), educate physicians, other health care
17 professionals, and school personnel about the condition, help
18 improve the quality of life of all people touched by TS, and
19 encourage the research necessary to identify the cause of TS,
20 control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder.

21

22 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
23 proclamation recognizing June 4 as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness
24 Day" in New Jersey and calling upon public officials, the citizens of
25 the State, and other interested groups to observe the day with
26 appropriate activities and programs.

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28 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This joint resolution permanently designates June 4 as "Tourette
34 Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey to raise public awareness
35 of Tourette Syndrome (TS), educate physicians, other health care
36 professionals, and school personnel about the condition, help
37 improve the quality of life of all people touched by TS, and
38 encourage the research necessary to identify the cause of TS,
39 control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder.