

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3156**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**  
**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates cranberry juice as State beverage.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A3156 MURPHY

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1    **AN ACT** designating cranberry juice as the State beverage.

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3    **WHEREAS**, A fruit native to North America, the cranberry grows on an  
4       evergreen shrub that thrives in wet areas, such as bogs or wetlands;  
5       and

6    **WHEREAS**, The history of cranberries predates the arrival of the first  
7       European settlers in the Western Hemisphere as cranberries were a  
8       staple of the diets of Native-Americans; and

9    **WHEREAS**, The Lenni Lenape people from southern New Jersey  
10       harvested wild cranberries and used the fruit in a variety of  
11       remedies, foods, and drinks; and

12   **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, commercial cranberry farming began in  
13       1835 in a bog in Burlington County and New Jersey is now the  
14       third largest cranberry producing state in the United States; and

15   **WHEREAS**, Records indicate that cranberries sold for as much as \$50 a  
16       barrel in the 1840s when merchants sold cranberries to sailors who  
17       consumed the fruit for its high Vitamin C content to help ward off  
18       scurvy; and

19   **WHEREAS**, In 1917, Elizabeth Lee of New Jersey was the first person  
20       to create cranberry sauce from the berries and later joined forces  
21       with other farmers to start the company that became known as  
22       Ocean Spray, famous for its bottled cranberry juice; and

23   **WHEREAS**, Research indicates that cranberry juice is full of nutrients  
24       that may have significant health benefits by boosting the immune  
25       system; and

26   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey does not have a State beverage and it is fitting  
27       and proper to formally recognize the significance of cranberries to  
28       the history and culture of our State and its people by designating  
29       cranberry juice as the State beverage; now, therefore,

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31       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
32       *of New Jersey:*

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34       1.   Cranberry juice is designated as the State beverage.

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36       2.   This act shall take effect immediately.

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39                                   **STATEMENT**

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41       This bill designates cranberry juice as the State beverage. The  
42       bill was inspired by the advocacy of the fourth grade classes in  
43       Cinnaminson township schools in New Jersey.

44       New Jersey is the third largest cranberry producing state in the  
45       United States. The history of cranberries predates the arrival of the  
46       first European settlers in the Western Hemisphere as cranberries  
47       were a staple of the diets of Native-Americans. In New Jersey,  
48       commercial cranberry farming began in 1835 in a bog in Burlington

1     County and New Jersey is now the third largest cranberry producing  
2     state in the United States. In 1917, Elizabeth Lee of New Jersey was  
3     the first person to create cranberry sauce from the berries and later  
4     joined forces with other farmers to start the company that became  
5     known as Ocean Spray.

6     Research indicates that cranberry juice is full of nutrients that  
7     may have significant health benefits. New Jersey does not have a  
8     State beverage and it is fitting and proper to formally recognize the  
9     significance of cranberries to the history and culture of our State  
10    and its people by designating cranberry juice as the State beverage.