

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 139**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

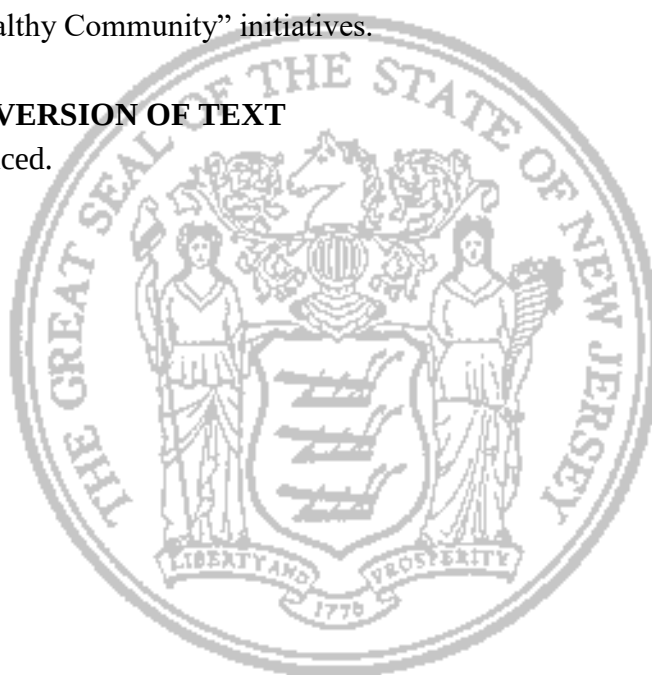
**Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen Timberlake, Speight,
Assemblyman Spearman and Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie**

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Department of Health and Human Services and NJ DOH to promote “Healthy Community” initiatives.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department
 2 of Health and Human Services and the New Jersey Department
 3 of Health to promote “Healthy Community” initiatives.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, While there is no established definition of a “Healthy
 6 Community,” communities should be better defined by comparing
 7 available resources among different areas; and

8 **WHEREAS**, African-American, Hispanic-Americans, and other
 9 minority group communities experience debilitating health
 10 conditions that are brought on by a lack of resources and result in
 11 quantifiable health disparities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Health, both at the individual and community level,
 13 consists of more than physical health and includes spiritual,
 14 emotional, social, economic and environmental health and these
 15 aspects of health are all interconnected; and

16 **WHEREAS**, African-Americans encounter disproportionately higher
 17 rates of mortality and morbidity and have significantly higher rates
 18 of poverty, hazardous environmental exposure, inadequate
 19 educational resources, and fewer employment options; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The lasting legacy of racial enslavement, discrimination,
 21 and bias are contributing factors to unhealthy outcomes in African-
 22 American communities; and

23 **WHEREAS**, A comprehensive series of “Healthy Community” studies
 24 and initiatives will help better define healthy communities and more
 25 effectively allocate resources to improve the well-being of citizens
 26 in every community; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Empirical evidence should be used to measure access to
 28 vital services and resources, to help distinguish a healthy
 29 community from a less healthy community, and to direct resources
 30 to less healthy communities reducing that community’s rates of
 31 morbidity, mortality, poverty, and crime; and

32 **WHEREAS**, “Healthy Community” initiatives can engage key
 33 stakeholders about addressing disparities in less healthy
 34 communities and can create programs such as Opportunity Zones
 35 and community inventories that focuses investments and expands
 36 access to healthier resources in those communities; now, therefore,

37
 38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
 39 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

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 41 1. The Legislature urges the United States Department of Health
 42 and the New Jersey Department of Health to codify a definition of a
 43 “Healthy Community” based on resource-availability and to
 44 promote “Healthy Community” initiatives that study health and
 45 resource disparities among communities, promote collaboration
 46 with key community stakeholders and partners, and encourage
 47 further resource investments in less healthy communities.

ACR139 REYNOLDS-JACKSON, SUMTER

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2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the United States President, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Governor of New Jersey, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

STATEMENT

11 This resolution urges the US Department of Health and Human
12 Services and the New Jersey Department of Health to codify a
13 definition of a “Healthy Community” based on resource availability
14 and to promote “Healthy Community” initiatives that study health
15 and resource disparities among communities, promote collaboration
16 between key community stakeholders and partners, and encourage
17 further resource investments in less healthy communities.

Health encompasses a broad range of factors that include physical, spiritual, emotional, social, economic, and environmental health at the individual and community level. Many communities, especially the African-American community, have suffered quantifiable health disparities as the result of lacking community resources and the systematic oppression of that specific community.

While there is no established definition of a “Healthy Community,” communities should be better defined by comparing available resources among different areas. This type of definition will help facilitate a comprehensive series of “Healthy Community” studies and initiatives that will generate empirical evidence that measures resource availability and will promote programs that engage key stakeholders and encourage investments in less healthy communities.