

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 178**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblyman JOHN CATALANO

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to safely reopen non-essential businesses within State during COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to safely reopen
2 non-essential businesses within the State during the COVID-19
3 pandemic.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The United States of America and this State are
6 confronting the viral disease known as COVID-19; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The proliferation of COVID-19 has necessitated certain
8 emergency measures to curtail its spread, which include keeping
9 a distance of at least six feet between other persons and
10 maintaining sanitary health practices, such as frequent hand
11 washing; and

12 **WHEREAS**, As part of these emergency measures, the Governor
13 signed two Executive Orders, Nos. 107 and 119 of 2020, which
14 direct all residents to stay at home until further notice and close
15 all non-essential businesses and construction sites; and

16 **WHEREAS**, These orders severely damage the economic well-being
17 of thousands of businesses within the State, with 53 percent of
18 businesses having either reduced employee hours or having laid
19 off workers; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Nearly a third of the businesses that are affected by
21 these orders are unsure whether they will reopen once the orders
22 are lifted; and

23 **WHEREAS**, It would take affected businesses at least a year to
24 generate revenues comparable to their pre-COVID-19 profits if
25 they had to operate at 50 percent capacity; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
27 and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have
28 released guidelines to help reduce exposure to COVID-19 in the
29 workplace; and

30 **WHEREAS**, 70 percent of affected businesses believe they can fully
31 operate under CDC guidelines; and

32 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 related cases and hospitalizations in this
33 State have been decreasing, with a more than 40 percent drop in
34 hospitalizations and cases since their peak in mid-April; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Responsibly reopening the State in a manner that is
36 attuned to the needs of its business community would be
37 beneficial to every citizen of this State; now, therefore,

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

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42 1. This Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the
43 Governor to safely reopen non-essential businesses within the State
44 during the coronavirus disease 2019 health crisis.

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46 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
47 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
48 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges the Governor to safely resume non-essential business operations within the State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United States of America and this State are confronting the viral disease known as COVID-19, which has necessitated certain emergency measures to slow its spread. These include keeping a distance of at least six feet between other persons and maintaining sanitary health practices, such as frequent hand washing.

As part of these emergency measures, the Governor has signed two Executive Orders, Nos. 107 and 119 of 2020, which direct all residents to stay at home until further notice and close all non-essential businesses and construction sites. These orders, which were signed with the hope of reducing the spread of COVID-19, impact thousands of businesses within the State, with 53 percent of businesses having either reduced employee hours or having laid off workers as a result. The length of these orders has also placed the viability of many businesses in doubt, with nearly a third of affected businesses being unsure of whether they will reopen once the orders are lifted.

Under the new workplace guidelines released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, businesses now have guidance on how to safely reopen while reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. With most affected businesses believing they can fully operate safely under the CDC guidelines, and new data showing cases and hospitalizations of the disease decreasing, now is the time for the Governor to safely reopen the State. The sooner this process begins, the faster the State can recover from this difficult situation.