

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 216**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JUNE 14, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

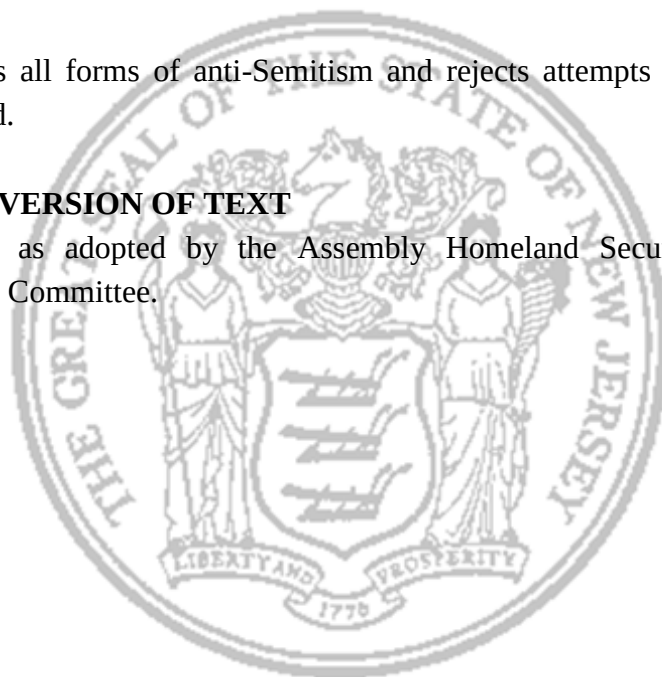
**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblyman Benson and
Assemblywoman Timberlake**

SYNOPSIS

Condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning all forms of anti-
2 Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, All Americans have a stake in fighting anti-Semitism, as
5 all Americans have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry and
6 hatred against people based on religion, race, country of origin,
7 sexual preference, or identity; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which
9 may be expressed as hatred of Jews. Rhetorical and physical
10 manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or
11 non-Jewish persons, their property, or both, and toward Jewish
12 community institutions and religious facilities; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The Jewish community and other vulnerable
14 populations too frequently have been the victims of assault,
15 threats, vandalism, and other forms of intimidation; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Recently, there has been a significant increase in anti-
17 Semitic incidents, physical and verbal, in person and online; and
18 **WHEREAS**, These attacks have occurred at a time when anti-
19 Semitism, hate crimes, and ethnically-motivated and racially-
20 motivated extremism remain at historic highs; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring
22 to harm humanity, and often is used to blame Jews for societal
23 problems. Anti-Semitism is expressed in speech, writing, visual
24 forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative
25 character traits; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life,
27 the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere
28 could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are
29 not limited to: (1) calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or
30 harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an
31 extremist view of religion; (2) making mendacious,
32 dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about
33 Jews or the power of Jews as a collective, such as, especially but
34 not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of
35 Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other
36 societal institutions; (3) accusing Jews as a people of being
37 responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a
38 single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by
39 non-Jews; (4) denying the Holocaust and fact, scope,
40 mechanisms, such as gas chambers, or intentionality of the
41 genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist
42 Germany and its supporters and accomplices of the Holocaust
43 during World War II; (5) accusing the Jews as a people or Israel
44 as a state of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust; (6)
45 accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the
46 alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of
47 their own nations; (7) denying the Jewish people their right to
48 self-determination, such as claiming that the existence of a State

1 of Israel is a racist endeavor; (8) applying double standards by
2 requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of any
3 other democratic nation; (9) using the symbols and images
4 associated with classic anti-Semitism, such as claims of Jews
5 killing Jesus or blood libel, to characterize Israel or Israelis;
6 (10) drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that
7 of the Nazis; and (11) holding Jews collectively responsible for
8 actions of the state of Israel; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Manifestations of anti-Semitism also may include the
10 targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish
11 collectivity; however, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled
12 against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, The United States Department of State has used a
15 working definition, along with examples, of anti-Semitism since
16 2010; and

17 **WHEREAS**, On May 26, 2016 the 31 member states of the
18 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), of
19 which the United States is a member, adopted a non-legally
20 binding working definition of anti-Semitism at its plenary in
21 Bucharest; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The definition adopted by the IHRA is consistent with
23 and builds upon the information contained in the 2010 State
24 Department definition; and

25 **WHEREAS**, There is clear evidence of increasing incidents and
26 expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The January 2015 terrorist massacre of 12 people at the
28 offices of “Charlie Hebdo” magazine in Paris, the subsequent
29 killing of four French Jews at a kosher market just hours before
30 the Jewish Sabbath, the closing of Paris’ Grande Synagogue for
31 the first time since World War II, the closing of Jewish schools
32 in Belgium and other European nations, and the fears of ongoing
33 anti-Semitism in Europe’s largest Jewish communities
34 demonstrated to Jews and all people everywhere that Jewish life
35 in France, other European nations, and throughout the world is
36 difficult and uncertain in the face of growing anti-Semitic hatred
37 and violence; and

38 **WHEREAS**, On August 11 and 12, 2017, self-identified neo-
39 Confederates, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux
40 Klansmen held white supremacist events in Charlottesville,
41 Virginia, where they marched on a synagogue under the Nazi
42 swastika, engaged in racist and anti-Semitic demonstrations, and
43 committed brutal and deadly violence against peaceful
44 Americans; and

45 **WHEREAS**, On October 27, 2018, the perpetrator of the deadliest
46 attack on Jewish people in the history of the United States killed
47 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh,

1 Pennsylvania and reportedly stated that he “wanted all Jews to
2 die”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, On April 27, 2019, a gunman armed with an AR-15
4 style rifle fired shots inside the Chabad of Poway synagogue in
5 Poway, California, on the last day of the Jewish Passover
6 holiday, killing one woman and injuring three other people; and

7 **WHEREAS**, On December 10, 2019, a shooting was perpetrated at a
8 kosher grocery store located in the Greenville section of Jersey
9 City, New Jersey and five people were killed at the store,
10 including the two assailants; additionally, the assailants
11 wounded one customer and two police officers and a Jersey City
12 Police Department detective was shot and killed by the
13 assailants at a nearby cemetery just before the grocery store
14 attack; and

15 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal stated that
16 evidence indicated the attacks were acts of hate and domestic
17 terrorism fueled both by anti-Semitism and anti-law
18 enforcement beliefs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an
20 increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and
21 found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up
22 60.3 percent of all religious-based hate crimes; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Preliminary data from the Office of the New Jersey
24 Attorney General indicates that New Jersey recorded 1,441
25 incidents in 2020 in which people were threatened, harassed or
26 assaulted because of their disability or racial, ethnic, religious,
27 sexual, or gender identity, the most since New Jersey began
28 standardized tracking of hate crimes in 1991; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The preliminary data suggests that the number of anti-
30 Jewish incidents reported for 2020 was 298, or 21 percent of all
31 incidents reported that year; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The latest Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, released by
33 the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in 2021, tabulated 2,024
34 reported anti-Semitic incidents throughout the United States in
35 2020; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Of those incidents, 205 took place in New Jersey, which
37 would make 2021 the third-highest year on record since the
38 ADL began tracking anti-Semitic incidents in 1979, with
39 numbers in New Jersey at historic highs; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism is a challenge to the basic principles of
41 tolerance, pluralism, and democracy and the shared values that
42 bind Americans together; and

43 **WHEREAS**, The First Amendment to the Constitution established
44 the United States as a country committed to the principles of
45 tolerance and religious freedom, and the Fourteenth Amendment
46 established equal protection of the laws as the heart of justice in
47 the United States; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of
2 the American people and the diverse communities and religious
3 groups of the State of New Jersey; and
4 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism, like any kind of hate, is unacceptable in
5 any form; and
6 **WHEREAS**, There must be no caveats or qualifiers when
7 condemning anti-Jewish hate, violence against Jews, and anti-
8 Semitism in all spaces; now, therefore,
9
10 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
11 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*
12
13 1. The New Jersey Legislature unequivocally condemns all
14 forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts in this State, the United
15 States, and throughout the world to justify anti-Jewish hatred.
16
17 2. The New Jersey Legislature applauds leaders in New Jersey,
18 the United States, and throughout the world who have condemned
19 anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action
20 against anti-Semitism to do so.
21
22 3. The New Jersey Legislature supports expanded Holocaust
23 education programs that increase awareness, counter prejudice, and
24 enhance efforts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust,
25 genocide, intolerance, and discrimination.
26
27 4. The New Jersey Legislature recommends utilizing the
28 United States Department of State and International Holocaust
29 Remembrance Alliance working definition, along with examples of
30 anti-Semitism, as educational resources, when investigating acts of
31 and collecting data on anti-Semitism.
32
33 5. The New Jersey Legislature calls upon the citizens of New
34 Jersey and the State's government entities to continue their vigilant
35 efforts to prevent and report acts of anti-Semitism, hate crimes and
36 other violations of human rights and religious freedom.
37
38 6. Copies of the resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
39 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
40 Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the
41 United States Secretary of State, the Governor, and to each member
42 of Congress elected from this State.