

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 97**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Proposes Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** expressing support for a Children's
2 Outdoor Bill of Rights.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Children are spending less time outdoors exploring,
5 discovering and observing our natural world and playing and
6 creating in open spaces; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Not participating in these types of activities has been
8 shown to have adverse health, social and emotional consequences;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Spending time in the outdoors with frequent access to
11 nature experiences and lessons provides a foundation upon which to
12 build physical strength and environmental awareness; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Learning about the environment and other subjects in an
14 outdoor setting, an outdoor classroom or garden, and through field
15 studies and outdoor lab activities, is known to help increase student
16 performance in class, increase student interest in learning, reduce
17 disciplinary problems, and increase student ownership of work
18 being done; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The future quality, quantity and use of New Jersey's
20 natural resources will lie in the hands of children; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Children will need to understand natural systems and the
22 interrelationships between natural and human-built systems, in
23 order to make decisions and take actions that will maintain a high
24 quality of life; now, therefore,

25
26 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
27 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

28
29 1. This Legislature proposes that every child has the right and
30 should have opportunities to:

- 31
- 32 • Explore the woods; climb a tree
 - 33
 - 34 • Run through a field; build a fort
 - 35
 - 36 • Splash in the water; catch a fish
 - 37
 - 38 • Explore a city park; turn over a log
 - 39
 - 40 • Sleep out in a tent; gaze at stars
 - 41
 - 42 • Follow a trail; listen to bird song
 - 43
 - 44 • Play in the mud; hold a frog
 - 45
 - 46 • Plant a garden; eat locally grown food
 - 47
 - 48 • Play in the rain; follow animal tracks

ACR97 WIMBERLY, SPACE

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- 1 • Be alone in nature; share it with a friend; and
2
3 • Celebrate New Jersey’s habitats; embrace New Jersey’s natural
4 heritage.
5
6 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
7 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
8 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Commissioner of
9 Environmental Protection, and the Commissioner of Children and
10 Families.

11
12

13 STATEMENT

14

15 This concurrent resolution expresses support for and strongly
16 encourages a “Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights,” which highlights
17 for children the many benefits of participating in and enjoying
18 outdoor activities, especially during summer vacation.