

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 118

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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 October of each year as “Walk to School Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October of each year as “Walk  
2       to School Month.”  
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4   **WHEREAS**, Walking or biking to school has a multitude of benefits for  
5       children, their parents, and the community and should be  
6       encouraged where possible; and  
7   **WHEREAS**, Regular physical activity is a cornerstone of a healthy  
8       lifestyle that decreases the risk of obesity and diabetes and  
9       increases the chance children will remain physically active into  
10      adulthood; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, Walking or biking to school helps incorporate regular  
12      physical exercise for children and can build healthy habits that last  
13      a lifetime; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, Motor vehicles emit a variety of air pollutants that result in  
15      increases of ground-level ozone, nitrogen oxide, and particulate  
16      matter that can cause asthma and other respiratory conditions; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, By walking or riding a bike to school, families reduce the  
18      number of automobiles on the road and in turn reduce the number  
19      of air pollutants emitted in their communities; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Reducing the number of vehicles on the road also has the  
21      benefit of making it safer for children and their families to walk to  
22      school; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, When children walk or bike to school, families save on gas  
24      and communities spend less on building and maintaining roads; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Improving conditions for walking and biking brings  
26      families, neighbors, school officials, and community leaders  
27      together which helps breed a sense of community and civic  
28      engagement; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, It is important for communities to provide safe walking  
30      and biking routes to allow children to get to and from school; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, There are many ways that communities can ensure walking  
32      and biking to school are safer for families including maintaining  
33      sidewalks, installing traffic calming devices near schools, and  
34      providing pedestrian signals at intersections; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, Making communities safer for families and children to  
36      walk to school also makes the schools more accessible to others in  
37      the community such as individuals with disabilities or seniors; and  
38   **WHEREAS**, Schools and families should work together to map and  
39      plan routes to school that make it easy for all children in a  
40      community to safely walk or bike to school; and  
41   **WHEREAS**, Walking and biking to school benefit not only children, but  
42      their families, their school officials, and their neighborhood and  
43      should be encouraged in communities throughout the State; now,  
44      therefore,  
45  
46        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
47    *State of New Jersey:*

1       1. The month of October of each year shall be designated as  
2 “Walk to School Month.”

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4       2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
5 proclamation recognizing “Walk to School Month” and call upon  
6 public officials, private organizations and all citizens of the State to  
7 observe this month each year with appropriate events and activities.

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9       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14       This resolution designates October of each year as “Walk to  
15 School Month.”

16       Walking and biking to school are beneficial for children, their  
17 families, their schools, and their communities. Walking and biking  
18 bring physical and health benefits to children and their families by  
19 providing regular exercise. This reduces the risk of heart disease,  
20 diabetes, and obesity, making the whole family healthier. The more  
21 families who walk to school, the fewer vehicles there are on the  
22 road which reduces traffic and air pollution. The benefits also  
23 extend to the school and community with lower road maintenance  
24 costs.

25       In order to fully realize the benefits of more children walking to  
26 school, communities and schools must do their part in planning safe  
27 routes for families to walk. This can mean placing or repairing  
28 sidewalks along busy roadways, introducing traffic calming  
29 measures near schools, or installing pedestrian signals at  
30 intersections. It is important that parents, school officials, and  
31 community leaders work together to ensure safe walking and biking  
32 routes to schools for families in their community. By recognizing  
33 “Walk to School Month,” the State encourages all schools and  
34 communities to promote the benefits of walking or biking to school.