

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 121

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates second week in May of each year as “Food Allergy Awareness Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

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1 Food allergies affect approximately 15 million Americans,
2 including six million children. A food allergy is an immune system
3 response to a food the body mistakenly believes is harmful. When a
4 person with a food allergy consumes food containing allergens, his
5 or her immune system releases certain chemicals, such as histamine,
6 that trigger symptoms affecting the respiratory system, the
7 gastrointestinal tract, the skin, and the cardiovascular system.

8 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
9 between 1997 and 2011, the prevalence of food allergies rose 50
10 percent and appears to be increasing among children. Those
11 suffering from food allergies are typically allergic to foods such as
12 peanuts, tree nuts, milk, egg, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish.

13 There is no cure for food allergies, and as a result, strict
14 avoidance is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.
15 Managing a food allergy on a daily basis involves constant
16 vigilance as trace amounts of an allergen can trigger an allergic
17 reaction in certain individuals. Public education regarding food
18 allergies is necessary to promote food allergy awareness and
19 support those who are impacted by food allergies.