

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Speight and Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 15 of each year as Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June 15 of each year as Elder
2 Abuse Awareness Day.

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4 **WHEREAS**, An estimated five million senior citizens experience abuse,
5 neglect, or exploitation across the United States every year; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Elder abuse can manifest itself as physical or emotional
7 abuse, neglect, abandonment, sexual abuse, or financial abuse and
8 can occur regardless of a person's sex, race, religion, or ethnicity;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, A senior citizen is often abused by a family member or by
11 workers at assisted living facilities and nursing homes, the very
12 individuals responsible for caring for the senior citizen; and

13 **WHEREAS**, While a senior citizen can be abused regardless of his or
14 her health, abuse is most likely to occur when the senior citizen is
15 physically frail, socially isolated, or experiences dementia or
16 confusion; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Incidents of abuse are also more likely when the
18 perpetrator is financially dependent on the senior citizen, abuses
19 alcohol or drugs, has a psychiatric disorder, a history of violent
20 behavior, financial problems, or lacks the skills and resources to
21 properly provide for the senior citizen; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Signs of elder abuse include poor hygiene, bruises, broken
23 bones, scratches and cuts, anxiety, depression, or sudden changes to
24 a senior citizen's finances; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Many senior citizens who experience elder abuse fail to
26 report mistreatment because they are either too ashamed or fear that
27 reporting an abuser will make the situation worse; and

28 **WHEREAS**, "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" is commemorated
29 on June 15th of each year and provides the opportunity for
30 communities to take action to protect senior citizens by raising
31 awareness of elder abuse, why it occurs, and what everyone can do
32 to stop it; now, therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
35 *State of New Jersey:*

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37 1. June 15 of each year is designated as "Elder Abuse
38 Awareness Day" to foster an awareness and understanding of elder
39 abuse.

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41 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual
42 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
43 to observe "Elder Abuse Awareness Day" with appropriate
44 activities and programs.

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46 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This joint resolution designates June 15 of each year as “Elder Abuse Awareness Day” in order to foster an awareness and understanding of elder abuse. This joint resolution also respectfully requests that the Governor issue an annual proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this state to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

Every year, approximately five million senior citizens across the United States are victims of elder abuse. Common signs of elder abuse include physical or emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment, sexual abuse, or financial abuse. Sadly, senior citizens are often abused by the same individuals responsible for their well-being such as a family member or staff members at an assisted living facility. Mistreatment often goes unreported as many victims are either ashamed or fear that the report will get back to the abuser and make the situation worse. To raise awareness of this widespread problem, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization launched World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2006. The purpose of this day is to provide communities across the globe the opportunity to better understand the abuse and neglect of senior citizens. By establishing June 15 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in New Jersey, our communities will join with others across the globe in learning more about the causes and warning signs of elder abuse and what they can do to help.