

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 132

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates September of each year as “Distracted Walking Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September of each year as
2 “Distracted Walking Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The use of cellular phones and other portable electronic
5 devices has become a daily part of the lives of many Americans;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, According to the Cellular Telecommunications Industry
8 Association, there are an estimated 326.4 million active wireless
9 devices in the United States, which are responsible for over two
10 trillion minutes of use and over two trillion text messages annually;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, The use of a wireless device while walking can pose
13 serious safety risks for the person talking or texting as well as the
14 people around them; and

15 **WHEREAS**, According to the Accident Analysis and Prevention
16 Journal, 70 percent of distracted pedestrian injuries in 2010
17 occurred while the pedestrian was talking on the phone and nine
18 percent took place while the pedestrian was texting; and

19 **WHEREAS**, A Stony Brook University study found that pedestrians
20 were 60 percent more likely to inadvertently exit designated
21 crosswalks when walking and texting than pedestrians who were
22 not texting; and

23 **WHEREAS**, According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission,
24 1,150 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms in 2011,
25 for injuries suffered while walking and using cellular phones or
26 other portable electronic devices; and

27 **WHEREAS**, A study conducted by Safe Kids Worldwide found that one
28 in five high school students and one in eight middle school students
29 are distracted by a cellular telephone or other electronic device
30 while walking; and

31 **WHEREAS**, A distracted walking public awareness campaign will
32 educate the public on the dangers of using cellular phones and other
33 portable electronic devices while walking, as similar campaigns
34 have informed the public of the dangers of distracted driving; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Given the dangers of distracted walking and the possibility
36 that a public awareness campaign may save lives in New Jersey, it
37 is fitting and proper and in the best interests of the citizens of this
38 State to designate and observe September of each year as
39 “Distracted Walking Awareness Month”; now, therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
42 *State of New Jersey:*

43
44 1. The month of September of each year shall be designated as
45 “Distracted Walking Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey
46 to promote public awareness about the dangers of distracted
47 walking.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Recent studies demonstrate that talking on the phone and texting can be distracting for pedestrians of all ages. Due to the risks associated with distracted walking, it is therefore in the best interests of the State to designate September of each year as “Distracted Walking Awareness Month” and to educate the public on the dangers of distracted walking.