

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 140

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges municipalities to establish local Access for All Committees to assist citizens with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging municipalities to establish an Access
2 for All Committee in order to improve the quality of life for
3 citizens with disabilities in their communities.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey recognizes and acknowledges its
6 ongoing legal commitments to meeting the needs of its employees
7 and citizens with disabilities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The State fully supports the provisions of the “Americans
9 with Disabilities Act” (ADA), 42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq., which
10 pertain to the provision of reasonable accommodations in the
11 workplace and the provision to all citizens of equal access to
12 facilities and services; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Senate and General Assembly remain
14 keenly aware of the need to be proactive in enforcing compliance
15 with the ADA by addressing the special needs our citizens with
16 disabilities; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Despite the great strides that New Jersey citizens with
18 disabilities have made following the enactment of the ADA,
19 barriers continue to exist that deny equal access to employment, as
20 well as to public and private facilities; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Several New Jersey communities, including Ridgewood,
22 Glen Rock, Maywood, Tenafly, Hasbrouck Heights, Fort Lee, Fair
23 Lawn, Bergenfield, and Paramus, have established Access for All
24 Committees, which are composed of town residents with
25 disabilities and local officials, and which work collaboratively with
26 the mayor and township or borough council to address issues of
27 access within each community’s boundaries; and

28 **WHEREAS**, These local Access for All Committees serve as a resource
29 for anyone in need of assistance with access, and aim to increase
30 awareness through education as a means to encourage the
31 development of a more informed and sensitive populace; now,
32 therefore,

33
34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
35 *State of New Jersey:*

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37 1. The Legislature and Governor of New Jersey hereby
38 reaffirm the State’s commitment to promote the full implementation
39 of, and compliance with, the ADA, and respectfully encourage each
40 municipality in the State to create an Access for All Committee in
41 order to address issues of access occurring within their respective
42 jurisdictions.

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44 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
45 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
46 Secretary of the Senate to the mayor or chief executive of each
47 municipality in this State.

1 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This joint resolution would reaffirm the State’s commitment to
7 promoting the full implementation of, and compliance with, the
8 “Americans with Disabilities Act” (ADA), 42 U.S.C. s.12101 et
9 seq., and would respectfully encourage each municipality in the
10 State to create an Access for All Committee within their respective
11 jurisdictions.

12 Despite the great strides that New Jersey citizens with
13 disabilities have made following the enactment of the ADA, barriers
14 continue to exist that deny equal access to employment, as well as
15 to public and private facilities. Several New Jersey communities,
16 including Ridgewood, Glen Rock, Maywood, Tenafly, Hasbrouck
17 Heights, Fort Lee, Fair Lawn, Bergenfield, and Paramus, have
18 attempted to address these barriers through the establishment of
19 Access for All Committees, which are composed of town residents
20 with disabilities and local officials, and which work collaboratively
21 with the mayor and township or borough council to address issues
22 of access within each community’s boundaries. These local Access
23 for All Committees serve as a resource for anyone in need of
24 assistance, and aim to increase awareness through education as a
25 means to encourage the development of a more informed and
26 sensitive populace.