

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 143

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as “Cranberry Harvest Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October of each year as
2 “Cranberry Harvest Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The American Cranberry is a native North American plant,
5 with the cranberry’s nutritional and medicinal value having been
6 well-known to Native Americans for generations prior to European
7 colonization; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Cranberries have been cultivated in New Jersey for
9 commercial purposes since Benjamin Thomas of Burlington
10 County first attempted to domesticate cranberries in 1835; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The development of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad and
12 the West Jersey Railroad helped the cranberry industry flourish in
13 the late 19th century, with these railroads transporting nearly
14 35,000 bushels of cranberries in 1881 alone; and
15 **WHEREAS**, “Bounce sorters,” the process to identify and separate good
16 cranberries from bad was invented in New Jersey, and is currently
17 used by all cranberry farmers throughout the country; and
18 **WHEREAS**, In the 19th century, Elizabeth Lee, one of the first
19 cranberry growers in southern New Jersey, created and began
20 selling “Bog Sweet Cranberry Sauce”; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The cranberry industry in New Jersey peaked by the
22 1920s, with New Jersey harvesting more than 11,000 acres of
23 cranberry bogs each year; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The cranberry industry survived and flourished through the
25 Great Depression, but was decimated by World War II, with 5,000
26 acres harvested in 1940 and only 4,000 acres harvested in 1950; and
27 **WHEREAS**, By 1988, New Jersey farmers were harvesting 3,300 acres
28 of cranberries each year, an amount worth nearly \$17 million,
29 making the cranberry industry in New Jersey a vital player in the
30 State economy; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Today, cranberry bogs throughout the Pinelands produce
32 the third largest quantity of cranberries in the United States, with
33 more than 3,600 acres of operational cranberry bogs in several
34 counties in central and southern New Jersey; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Cranberries are harvested in the fall, with fresh cranberries
36 usually available from September through December, and are used
37 to make a variety of products sold year round, such as juices, sauces
38 and dried cranberries; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Cranberry bogs are visited by students and tourists each
40 year to learn about the cranberry harvest process and the history of
41 the cranberry industry in New Jersey; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Scientific research has confirmed that cranberries are
43 extremely healthy and packed with antioxidants, promote
44 cardiovascular health, protect against neurodegenerative diseases,
45 and can inhibit the development of certain types of cancer; and
46 **WHEREAS**, Cranberry harvesting is an industry with a rich history in
47 New Jersey and continues to play a vital role in the State’s
48 economy; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

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4 1. The month of October of each year is designated “Cranberry
5 Harvest Month” to recognize the rich history of the Cranberry
6 industry in New Jersey and the continued importance of cranberry
7 harvesting to the State’s economy.

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9 2. The Governor may annually issue a proclamation
10 recognizing October as “Cranberry Harvest Month” in New Jersey
11 and may call upon public officials and the citizens of this State to
12 observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

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14 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This joint resolution designates October of each year as
20 “Cranberry Harvest Month.”

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22 Cranberries have been cultivated in New Jersey since 1840.
23 October is the height of the cranberry harvesting season. Cranberry
24 bogs in central and southern New Jersey are visited by students and
25 tourists each year to learn about the cranberry harvesting process,
26 especially during this month. Cranberries are a healthful fruit with
27 scientifically proven benefits in protecting against common
28 illnesses. Cranberry bogs throughout the Pinelands of New Jersey
29 produce the third largest quantity of cranberries in the United
30 States, with more than 3,600 acres of operational cranberry bogs in
several counties in central and southern New Jersey.