

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 192

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates November of each year as "C. Difficile Awareness Month."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating November of each year as “C.
2 Difficile Awareness Month.”
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4 **WHEREAS,** Clostridioides Difficile, also known as C. Difficile, is a
5 bacterium that causes inflammation of the colon; and
6 **WHEREAS,** The United States Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention report that 500,000 patients nationwide are diagnosed
8 with an C. Difficile infection and require treatment each year; and
9 **WHEREAS,** Each year nearly 29,000 individuals affected by C.
10 Difficile die within 30 days of initial diagnosis, with roughly
11 15,000 of those deaths directly attributed to C. Difficile infection;
12 and
13 **WHEREAS,** Studies indicate that C. Difficile has become the most
14 common microbial cause of healthcare-associated infection in U.S.
15 hospitals and has exacted up to \$4.8 billion each year in excess
16 health care costs for acute care facilities alone; and
17 **WHEREAS,** One out of every five patients with a healthcare-associated
18 C. Difficile infection experiences a recurrence of the infection, and
19 one out of every nine patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-
20 associated C. Difficile infection died within 30 days of diagnosis;
21 and
22 **WHEREAS,** Improved health practices, such as thorough hand
23 hygiene, and environmental cleaning, can significantly reduce the
24 risk and spread of C. Difficile infection; and
25 **WHEREAS,** Ensuring the education of healthcare workers on proper
26 infection prevention techniques is proven to reduce all types of
27 healthcare-associated infections; and
28 **WHEREAS,** Healthcare facilities employ dedicated professionals who
29 advocate for improving health and promoting patient safety in order
30 to minimize and prevent C. Difficile infections; and
31 **WHEREAS,** It is fitting and proper that all citizens and healthcare
32 workers in the State of New Jersey be better informed about C.
33 Difficile infections and the different ways the bacterium can be
34 spread; now, therefore,
35
36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
37 *State of New Jersey:*
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39 1. November of each year is designated as “C. Difficile
40 Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey, and the citizens are
41 urged to observe the month with appropriate activities and
42 programs.
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44 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
45 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of New
46 Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and
47 programs.

1 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This joint resolution designates November of each year as “C.
7 Difficile Awareness Month” in New Jersey to increase awareness of
8 this harmful bacterial infection.

9 The joint resolution respectfully requests the Governor to
10 annually issue a proclamation recognizing November as “C.
11 Difficile Awareness Month” in New Jersey and calls upon public
12 officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the month with
13 appropriate activities and programs.