

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 193

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Designates June of each year as “Immigrant Heritage Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of June of each year
2 as “Immigrant Heritage Month” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has the fifth-largest immigrant population in
5 the United States, with more than one in five residents born outside
6 of the country; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The various ethnicities, cultures and religions that
8 established roots in New Jersey have kept the State as one of the
9 most diverse in the nation and Jersey City ranked in 2018 as the
10 most ethnically diverse mid-sized city in the United States; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The immigration population of New Jersey grew by 14.3
12 percent since 2005 and immigrants now account for approximately
13 22 percent of New Jersey’s total population; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Immigrants make up more than one-quarter of the
15 workforce in New Jersey, populating nearly 50 percent of the
16 computer and mathematical science industries in the State; and

17 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 48 percent of New Jersey residents with
18 master’s degrees and 41 percent of residents with doctorates in a
19 scientific specialty are immigrants; and

20 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s workforce has one of the largest numbers of
21 high-skilled H1-B visa holders in the nation; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Immigrants bolster New Jersey’s entrepreneurial
23 community, owning 47 percent of “main street” businesses in New
24 Jersey, which earn \$4.4 billion annually, and one-fifth of self-
25 employed businesses, which generate an estimated \$3.3 billion in
26 total revenue each year; and

27 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is second in the nation for the highest
28 percentage of jobs created by immigrant-owned businesses; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Immigrant households in New Jersey provide up to an
30 estimated \$54.6 billion in spending power annually; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Approximately \$872.6 million would be lost from the
32 State in gross domestic product if immigrants from El Salvador,
33 Haiti, and Honduras lost their Temporary Protected Status; and

34 **WHEREAS**, National Immigrant Heritage Month has been celebrated in
35 June since 2014 to recognize and celebrate the diversity of the
36 country as a result of immigration; now, therefore,

37
38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
39 *State of New Jersey:*

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41 1. The month of June of each year is designated as “Immigrant
42 Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey to celebrate the
43 immigrants who made and continue to make this State their home
44 and to highlight the contributions immigration brings to the
45 economy and culture of New Jersey.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Immigrants account for a large portion of economic success in the State. They make up more than a quarter of the workforce and nearly fifty percent of the jobs in the computer and mathematical science industries in New Jersey. Approximately 48 percent of New Jersey residents with master's degrees and 41 percent of doctorate degrees in a scientific specialty are immigrants. The State also boasts one of the highest percentages in the country of high-skilled workers here on H1-B visas. Moreover, immigrants own 47 percent of "main street" businesses in New Jersey, earning nearly \$4.4 billion a year annually, and run one-fifth of self-employed businesses in the State, which generate approximately \$3.3 billion in revenue each year. These businesses help make New Jersey the state with the second-highest number of jobs created by immigrant-owned businesses in the nation. Immigrant households in New Jersey also provide up to an estimated \$54.6 billion in spending power each year.