

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 217

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

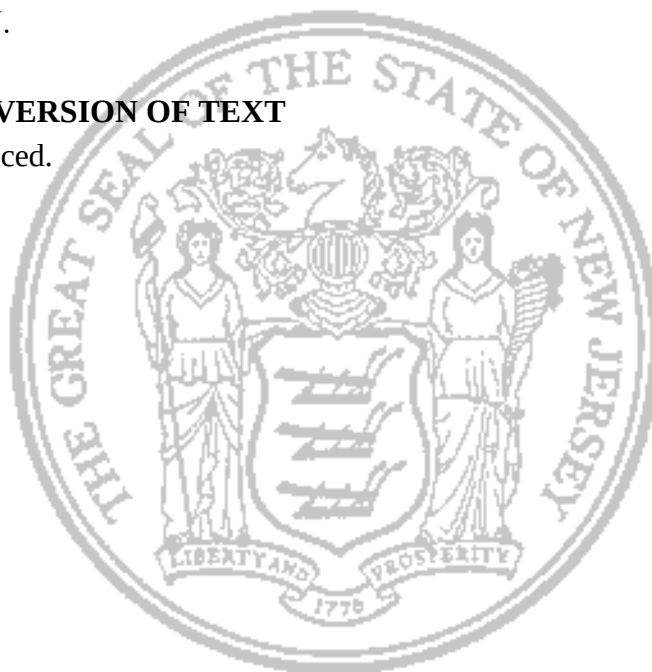
**Assemblyman Mukherji, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle and
Assemblyman Stanley**

SYNOPSIS

Designates January of each year as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of January of each
2 year as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the
3 State of New Jersey.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey takes great pride in the varied
6 religious and cultural traditions of residents of this State and seeks
7 to afford all people in New Jersey the opportunity to better
8 understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich histories, cultures,
9 and shared principles of Muslim Americans; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Muslims are the world’s second largest religious group,
11 with 1.8 billion adherents, representing approximately 24 percent of
12 the world’s population; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Muslims have made significant contributions that shape
14 our world, including notable achievements in philosophy,
15 mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine,
16 architecture, music, literature, and the arts; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The 3.45 million Muslims in the United States come from
18 diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants and
19 native-born Americans, and represent approximately 1.1 percent of
20 the country’s population; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The history of Muslims in the United States dates back to
22 before the country’s founding, originating with enslaved Africans,
23 of whom scholars estimate as many as 30 percent were Muslim,
24 who brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and
25 contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation,
26 including courageous and dedicated military service in every major
27 war from the American Revolutionary War until today; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over the
29 world have enriched American society; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual
31 understanding between all faiths and identities, while upholding the
32 values and principles of Islam and those of the United States of
33 America; and
34 **WHEREAS**, There are nearly 300,000 Muslim Americans in New
35 Jersey, representing one of the largest Muslim American
36 populations of any state in the United States; including numerous
37 current and former elected officials dedicated to public service in
38 their communities; and
39 **WHEREAS**, The people of New Jersey benefit from the social
40 benevolence, patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy,
41 civic engagement, culture, and business of Muslim Americans and
42 Muslim American organizations that operate within the State; and
43 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey recognizes the positive impact Muslims have
44 made, and continue to make, to the advancement of this State and
45 the nation, and believes it is appropriate to acknowledge and
46 promote awareness and appreciation of the invaluable contributions
47 of Muslim Americans; now, therefore,

AJR217 MCKNIGHT, SPEIGHT

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

4 1. The month of January of each year is designated as “Muslim
5 Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of New Jersey.

6 The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation
7 each year calling upon the people of New Jersey, local government
8 agencies, and interested organizations to observe this month with
9 appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

10

11 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

12

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This Joint Resolution designates the month of January of each
17 year as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State
18 of New Jersey. This designation would allow the State and its
19 residents to respectfully acknowledge and promote awareness of
20 Muslims and recognize the many contributions of the State’s
21 Muslim community.