

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 245

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN CATALANO

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblyman GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN

District 10 (Ocean)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Designates October 1 of each year as “New Jersey Diner Day”.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October 1 of each year as “New
2 Jersey Diner Day”.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is known as the “Diner Capital of the World”;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, The history of diners in New Jersey started during the rise
7 of the automobile in the 1910s and 1920s; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Jerry O’Mahony (born on October 1) and his brother,
9 whose family owned a tavern in Bayonne, New Jersey, owned
10 several horse drawn lunch wagons that operated throughout Hudson
11 County, New Jersey; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Realizing that there could be an industry in building the
13 food wagons themselves, the O’Mahony brothers hired a carpenter
14 to build a food wagon and sold it to a Jersey City restaurant
15 entrepreneur for \$800; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In the decades that followed, nearly all of the major United
17 States diner builders, including Jerry O’Mahony Inc., began
18 operating in New Jersey; and

19 **WHEREAS**, These companies produced the factory-built, stainless-steel
20 eateries that often resembled shiny railroad cars and were examples
21 of Streamline Moderne architecture, a concept emphasizing sleek
22 lines and aerodynamic forms; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Due to New Jersey’s location between Philadelphia and
24 New York City, New Jersey built highly developed transportation
25 systems and road networks for commuters traveling between the
26 two metropolitan hubs; and

27 **WHEREAS**, As busy commuters traveled through New Jersey, the
28 State’s 24-hour diners became destinations to eat and rest; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Travelers and local residents alike sought out these diners
30 for an affordable, convenient meal, and many working class and
31 middle class residents of New Jersey found diners offered an
32 affordable meal for the entire family; and

33 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to approximately 525 diners, the
34 largest number of diners in any state; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Diners play an important role in New Jersey’s economy
36 and culture and should be celebrated; 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. October 1 of each year is designated as “New Jersey Diner
42 Day”.

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44 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
45 proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations,
46 and all citizens of this State to observe “New Jersey Diner Day”
47 with appropriate awareness activities and programs.

1 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This joint resolution designates October 1 of each year as “New
7 Jersey Diner Day”.

8 New Jersey is known as the “Diner Capital of the World”. The
9 history of diners in New Jersey started during the automobile
10 industry’s rise in the 1910s and 1920s wherein New Jersey diners
11 began as portable wooden food wagons. Jerry O’Mahony and his
12 brother of Bayonne, New Jersey, owned several lunch wagons that
13 operated throughout Hudson, County, New Jersey. The O’Mahony
14 brothers hired a carpenter to build their own food wagon and sold it
15 to a restaurant entrepreneur. In the decades that followed, nearly all
16 of the major United States diner builders, including Jerry
17 O’Mahony Inc., started operating in New Jersey. Due to New
18 Jersey’s location between Philadelphia and New York City, New
19 Jersey built highly developed transportation systems and road
20 networks for commuters traveling between the two metropolitan
21 hubs. As busy commuters traveled between these three states, New
22 Jersey’s 24-hour diners became destinations to eat and rest.
23 Travelers and locals alike sought out these diners for an affordable,
24 convenient meal. New Jersey is home to approximately 525 diners,
25 the most diners in any state. Diners play an important role in New
26 Jersey’s economy and culture and should be celebrated.