

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 246

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Designates Monday of Manufacturing Week as Women in Manufacturing Day in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the Monday of Manufacturing
2 Week as Women in Manufacturing Day in New Jersey and
3 amending P.L.2020, J.R.5.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Throughout history, women have played a pivotal role in
6 the manufacturing industry as laborers, leaders, and innovators; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Women are responsible for the invention of products that
8 revolutionized the manufacturing industry, including the circular
9 saw, invented by Tabitha Babbitt in 1810, safety devices for textile
10 looms and machines to cut and assemble paper bags, both designed
11 by Margaret Knight in the late 1800s, and Kevlar, which is used in
12 cables and cut-resistant work gloves and was first created by
13 Stephanie Kwolek in the 1960s; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Manufacturing is a critical component of New Jersey's
15 economy, and women comprise one-third of the manufacturing
16 industry's workforce and occupy 25 percent of leadership positions
17 in manufacturing companies; and

18 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is the third highest state for percentage of
19 women working in the manufacturing industry and is among the
20 states with the largest number of women working in key
21 manufacturing fields like pharmaceuticals and textiles; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Gender diversity in a company is proven to result in an
23 improved ability to innovate, higher return on equity, and increased
24 profitability for manufacturing companies; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Organizations like the Women in Manufacturing
26 Association and The Manufacturing Institute are working to
27 provide mentorship and recognition to women in the manufacturing
28 industry in order to increase the number of women entering the
29 manufacturing industry; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Despite recent progress, women still constitute one of the
31 largest pools of untapped talent in manufacturing, and closing the
32 industry's gender gap is critical to the evolution and expansion of
33 manufacturing businesses; and

34 **WHEREAS**, The celebration of women's contributions to the
35 manufacturing industry would encourage more women to pursue
36 careers in the field; and

37 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting that we recognize and promote the valuable
38 role that women play in New Jersey's manufacturing industry by
39 designating the Monday of Manufacturing Week as Women in
40 Manufacturing Day; now, therefore,

41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
43 *State of New Jersey:*

44
45 1. Section 1 of P.L.2020, J.R.5 (C.36:2-398) is amended to read
46 as follows:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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b. The Monday of Manufacturing Week is designated as Women in Manufacturing Day in recognition of the contributions of the thousands of women who work in the State's manufacturing industry.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation annually and call upon public[,] officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this State to observe **[this] the celebration of Manufacturing Week and Women in Manufacturing Day** each year with appropriate events and activities.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Throughout history, women have played a crucial role in the manufacturing industry. Since the Industrial Revolution, women have made up a significant portion of the workforce, contributing as laborers, leaders, and innovators. Women like Tabitha Babbitt, Margaret Knight, and Stephanie Kwolek revolutionized the manufacturing industry with their inventions, paving the way for increased productivity and better safety measures.

Women are an essential part of any plan to grow the manufacturing industry. Gender diversity in a business is proven to result in an improved ability to innovate and increases profitability, and as such helps any company to expand and evolve. One of the

1 key components to recruiting more women to the field of
2 manufacturing is encouraging women from a younger age, and the
3 celebration of women's contributions to the field would capture the
4 interest of girls and young women.