

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 249

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Designates fourth Sunday of October of each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the fourth Sunday of October of
2 each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In the game of football, the positions of quarterback,
5 running back, and wide receiver are widely considered to be among
6 the most important and exciting; and
7 **WHEREAS**, One of the most overlooked positions, however, is the tight
8 end position, a hybrid position with the characteristics and roles of
9 both an offensive lineman and a wide receiver; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Tight ends are expected to be strong enough to block
11 defensive linemen while also possessing the necessary skill and
12 athleticism to warrant a defense’s attention as a pass catcher; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Despite the multiple skillsets tight ends possess, they are
14 often undervalued by teams and fans throughout the National
15 Football League (NFL); and
16 **WHEREAS**, Tight ends are known throughout the NFL for their energy,
17 outgoing personalities, and overall fun nature towards the game of
18 football; and
19 **WHEREAS**, To celebrate and acknowledge tight ends throughout the
20 NFL, San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle, widely considered
21 to be among the best players in the NFL, created “National Tight
22 Ends Day” in 2019; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Since 2019, “National Tight Ends Day” has been celebrated
24 on the fourth Sunday of October of each year to recognize tight ends
25 and their selfless, hard work that is instrumental to the success of
26 their teams; and
27 **WHEREAS**, As the birthplace of college football, home of the New York
28 Giants and New York Jets, as well as of fans of the Philadelphia
29 Eagles, New Jersey has a unique legacy with the game of football, at
30 all levels of competition; and
31 **WHEREAS**, In addition to the State’s football legacy, New Jersey has
32 been the home of numerous talented tight ends, including former
33 NFL tight end Greg Olsen, current NFL tight ends Mike Gesicki, Eric
34 Ebron, and Anthony Firkser, and United States Senator Cory Booker,
35 who was a standout tight end in high school and at Stanford
36 University; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Therefore, it is fitting and proper for New Jersey to take the
38 lead on promoting football tight ends, given its storied history with
39 the game and the position, and designate the fourth Sunday of
40 October of each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” to recognize the
41 contributions and efforts of those players; now, therefore,
42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
44 *of New Jersey:*
45
46 1. The fourth Sunday of October of each year is designated as
47 “Football Tight Ends Day” in the State of New Jersey to recognize
48 the exceptional efforts, talent, and often overlooked contributions of

1 football tight ends and the historical significance of football and the
2 tight end position in the State.

3
4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation designating the fourth Sunday of October of each year
6 as “Football Tight Ends Day” and shall call upon the public officials
7 and citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate
8 activities and programs.

9
10 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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13 STATEMENT

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15 This joint resolution designates the fourth Sunday of October of
16 each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in New Jersey.

17 Tight ends (TEs) are hybrid position players on offense who have
18 several responsibilities. During a rushing play, they are tasked with
19 effectively blocking defensive linemen, who often range anywhere
20 from 275 and 325 pounds. During a passing play, they are required
21 to block linemen, run a receiving route, or both. The various
22 responsibilities of a TE require them to be strong, agile, decisive, and
23 athletic.

24 Despite these various responsibilities and skillsets, TEs are often
25 overlooked when it comes to fan appreciation and recognition for
26 more glamorous positions, such as quarterback or running back. To
27 provide greater recognition to TEs, San Francisco 49ers TE George
28 Kittle, widely considered one of the best players in the NFL by fans
29 and players alike, created “National Tight Ends Day” in 2019. The
30 focus of “National Tight Ends Day” is to acknowledge the
31 importance of the TE position, the often undervalued TEs in the
32 league, and celebrate the energetic and fun personalities of TEs.
33 Since its inception in 2019, “National Tight Ends Day” has been
34 embraced by teams, the NFL, fans, and multiple media outlets across
35 the country.

36 New Jersey has a rich history in the game of football. New Jersey
37 is the birthplace of college football and home to both the New York
38 Giants and New York Jets, who play their games at MetLife Stadium
39 in East Rutherford. New Jersey has a rich history with the tight end
40 position as well. The Miami Dolphins Mike Gesicki, Pittsburgh
41 Steelers Eric Ebron, and Tennessee Titans Anthony Firkser were all
42 born in New Jersey and play the TE position at a high level in the
43 NFL. Former All-Pro TE and current sportscaster Greg Olsen was
44 also born in New Jersey and was a highly recruited player out of
45 Wayne Hills High School. United States Senator Cory Booker was
46 also a standout TE at Northern Valley Regional High School at Old
47 Tappan and Stanford University.

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1 Given the State’s storied history with the game of football and the
2 tight end position, it is appropriate for New Jersey to take the lead on
3 promoting and acknowledging “Football Tight Ends Day” on the
4 fourth Sunday of October of each year to recognize the contributions
5 and efforts of those players.