

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 254

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Designates June of each year as “Gun Violence Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/3/2022)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June of each year as “Gun
2 Violence Awareness Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Firearm violence has become an epidemic in the United
5 States and the effects of gun violence have a devastating effect on
6 society; and
7 **WHEREAS**, According to data from the Centers for Disease Control
8 and Prevention (CDC), in 2019, there were 39,707 firearm-related
9 deaths in the United States; and
10 **WHEREAS**, That amounted to about 109 people dying from a firearm-
11 related injury each day; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Six out of every 10 deaths were firearm suicides and more
13 than three out of every 10 deaths were firearm homicides; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with
15 firearms than people in other developed countries; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Firearm violence is the leading cause of death for women
17 in instances of domestic violence in the United States each year;
18 and
19 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 1,500 children die annually as a result of
20 firearms, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun
21 Violence; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Firearm violence has a detrimental effect on communities
23 within the United States as a result of increased healthcare costs,
24 criminal justice costs, costs to employers of having to obtain and
25 train other employees to cover for workers who are unable to work
26 due to serious firearm-related bodily injury or death, and lost
27 income of workers who are victims of firearms violence and unable
28 to continue working; and
29 **WHEREAS**, In fact, according to a 2018 report by the Giffords Law
30 Center to Prevent Gun Violence, these four measurable costs
31 associated with gun violence amount to an estimated \$1.2 billion
32 per year in New Jersey alone; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Communities suffer additional costs such as lost business
34 opportunities, neighborhood flight due to people feeling less safe,
35 and lowered property values; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding
37 citizens goes hand in hand with keeping firearms away from
38 dangerous people; and
39 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey encourages all citizens to support
40 their local communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic effects of
41 firearm violence and declares the month of June of every year as
42 “Gun Violence Awareness Month” in this State to honor and
43 remember all victims and survivors of firearm violence; now,
44 therefore,
45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
47 *State of New Jersey:*

1 1. The month of June of each year is designated as “Gun
2 Violence Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations,
6 and all citizens of this State to observe “Gun Violence Awareness
7 Month” with appropriate awareness activities and programs.

8

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This joint resolution designates June of each year as “Gun
15 Violence Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

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17 Firearm violence is an epidemic in the United States and has a
18 negative effect on society. According to 2019 CDC data, almost
19 40,000 people in the United States died from firearm-related injury.
20 Americans are more likely than those in other developed countries
21 to be murdered as the result of firearm violence. Firearm violence is
22 the leading cause of death of women in United States instances of
23 domestic violence and adversely affects children as well.

24

25 Firearm violence has a devastating effect on communities within
26 the United States, for instance, in the form of increased healthcare
27 costs, increased criminal justice costs, increased costs to employers,
28 and lost wages of gunshot victims. Communities can also
29 experience lowered property values, neighborhood flight due to
safety concerns, and lost business opportunities due to crimes
committed by individuals with firearms.