

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 52

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywomen Carter, Tucker, Assemblyman Caputo and
Assemblywoman B.DeCroce**

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as “Fire Prevention Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of October of each
2 year as “Fire Prevention Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Fires cause significant physical and economic damage, and
5 inflict long-lasting emotional scars on individuals who are injured
6 or lose loved ones in fires; and

7 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, there were 1,319,500 fires in the United States
8 causing 3,400 fire deaths, 14,670 fire-related injuries, and \$23
9 billion in economic losses; and

10 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
11 within the Department of Community Affairs, 27,409 fires were
12 reported in the State of New Jersey in 2015, five firefighters died in
13 the line of duty, 77 civilians lost their lives as a result of fires, and
14 2,352 acres of land were reported burned; and

15 **WHEREAS**, A fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the
16 nation every 24 seconds, thereby making it imperative that the
17 public possess knowledge of fire safety and prevention measures in
18 order to save lives; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Careless actions such as leaving stoves unattended or not
20 properly disposing of cigarettes caused 17.5 percent of fatal
21 residential building fires in 2016 and 11.4 percent of residential
22 building fires that caused injuries in 2016; and

23 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey law requires schools to schedule at least one
24 fire drill and one security drill each month within school hours so
25 that children are aware of what to do in case of a fire; and

26 **WHEREAS**, September and October are the peak months for fires in
27 college dormitory properties, which are the first months of a college
28 school year; and

29 **WHEREAS**, October 2nd is statutorily designated as Firefighter
30 Recognition Day in New Jersey; and in memory of the Great
31 Chicago Fire of 1871, National Fire Prevention Week has been
32 observed nationwide every year since 1922 during the week that
33 includes October 9th to raise awareness about the dangers of fires
34 and the need for fire prevention education; and

35 **WHEREAS**, In order to enhance public safety and encourage fire
36 prevention, it is important to raise public awareness about the
37 dangers of fires and how to prevent them; now, therefore,

38

39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
40 *State of New Jersey:*

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42 1. The month of October of each year is designated as “Fire
43 Prevention Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey to raise
44 public awareness about the dangers and the preventable nature of
45 fires and to highlight the importance of fire prevention.

46

47 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
48 calling upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to

1 observe “Fire Prevention Awareness Month” with appropriate
2 activities and programs.

3

4 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This joint resolution designates the month of October of each
10 year as “Fire Prevention Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

11 Fires cause significant physical and economic damage and inflict
12 emotional scars on people who are injured or lose loved ones. A fire
13 department has to respond to a fire somewhere in the nation every
14 24 seconds. In 2017, fires killed 3,400 people and injured about
15 14,670 people in the United States. New Jersey reported 27,409
16 fires in 2015, and lost 77 civilians as a result of fires. Furthermore,
17 five firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty in New Jersey in
18 2015.

19 Raising awareness about fire prevention can prevent fires and
20 save lives. 17.5 percent of building fires that resulted in fatalities,
21 and 11.4 percent of building fires that caused injuries, were the
22 result of careless actions such as leaving stoves unattended or not
23 properly disposing of cigarettes. New Jersey law requires schools
24 hold at least one fire drill per month to prepare for a potential fire.

25 October is a peak month for college campus dormitory fires, and
26 October 9th is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871,
27 which started National Fire Prevention Week. In order to enhance
28 public safety and encourage fire prevention, it is important to raise
29 public awareness about the dangers of fires and how to prevent
30 them.