

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 53

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, Assemblywomen
B.DeCroce, Vainieri Huttie and Dunn**

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as “Bullying Prevention Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

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

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Bullying is a type of aggressive conduct in which a person
5 intentionally causes someone else discomfort or harm, and can be
6 carried out in verbal and physical forms or through more indirect
7 means such as social media; and

8 **WHEREAS**, More than one out of every five American students report
9 that they have been bullied, with approximately 5 to 15 percent of
10 students chronic victims of bullies and 7 to 12 percent of students
11 the chronic bullies; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Students who are bullied are at a greater risk of sleeping
13 difficulties, anxiety, depression, strained relationships with friends
14 and family, and, in some cases, suicidal thoughts; and

15 **WHEREAS**, A bully tends to be easily angered, act aggressively
16 towards adults, show minimal empathy towards students who they
17 or others victimize, and needs to dominate other individuals; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Children need to understand certain actions and behaviors
19 are hurtful and be reminded that there may be legal consequences as
20 a result of bullying another person; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Parents and school staff are encouraged to intervene if they
22 see bullying occur, including telling students who are bullying to
23 stop, documenting the type of behavior they witnessed and
24 providing a support network for bullying victims; and

25 **WHEREAS**, “The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” reminds schools
26 that they are obligated to provide a safe space for students to learn
27 and to ensure students understand bullying is not permitted in a
28 school; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Incidents of cyberbullying has almost doubled between
30 2007 and 2016, and parental limitations or monitoring of the use of
31 technology by children can help combat cyberbullying; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Younger children tend to report when they have been
33 victims of cyberbullying and when there are issues with
34 socialization or victimization, but are also at a higher risk of
35 cyberbullying peers themselves; and

36 **WHEREAS**, The United States has recognized a “National Bullying
37 Prevention Month” since 2010 to highlight different kinds of
38 bullying behaviors, the impact bullying has on victims, and ways to
39 stop or prevent bullying; now, therefore,

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

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44 1. The month of October of each year is designated as
45 “Bullying Prevention Month” in the State of New Jersey to nurture
46 an awareness and understanding of bullying, including what
47 constitutes bullying, the various ways in which bullying can impact

1 people of all ages in different environments, and the actions that can
2 be taken to stop or prevent bullying behavior.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
6 to observe “Bullying Prevention Month” with appropriate activities
7 and programs.

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9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This joint resolution designates the month of October of each
15 year as “Bullying Prevention Month” in New Jersey.

16 Bullying is a type of aggressive conduct in which a person
17 intentionally causes another person discomfort or harm, and can be
18 carried out in verbal and physical forms or through more indirect
19 means such as social media. More than one out of every five
20 American students report that they have been bullied. Additionally,
21 roughly 5 to 15 percent of students are chronic victims of bullies
22 and 7 to 12 percent of students are chronic bullies. Victims of
23 bullies tend to be seen as different from other students, including by
24 height or weight or if they are new to school. Bullies are typically
25 easily angered, act aggressively towards adults, show minimal
26 empathy towards students who they or others victimize, and needs
27 to dominate. Parents and schools are encouraged to intervene to
28 stop bullying if they see it, document the behavior they witnessed,
29 and work at providing a supportive network for students who are
30 bullied. Schools are obligated to provide safe spaces for students
31 and send an explicit message that bullying will not be tolerated.

32 In addition, the amount of cyberbullying has almost doubled
33 between 2007 and 2016. Parents are encouraged to limit or monitor
34 the use of technology by children to help combat cyberbullying.