

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 54

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, Assemblywoman B.DeCroce and Assemblyman Giblin

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Stroke Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of May of each year
2 as “Stroke Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, A stroke is a medical event that disrupts blood flow to the
5 brain, which kills brain cells in the affected areas and can lead to
6 paralysis, cognitive and emotional difficulties, and problems with
7 speaking; and
8 **WHEREAS**, An ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke, is
9 caused by a blood clot in a blood vessel in the brain; and
10 **WHEREAS** A hemorrhagic stroke is a more serious type of stroke
11 caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain; and
12 **WHEREAS**, A transient ischemia attack, commonly called a ministroke,
13 has symptoms resembling strokes and needs immediate medical
14 attention to help prevent an ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Each year, almost 800,000 people in the United States
16 have a stroke, leading to about 140,000 deaths; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The risk of having a stroke increases with age and strokes
18 are a main cause of long-term disability as well as compromised
19 mobility in more than half of stroke survivors age 65 and older; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Strokes affect all races and ethnicities, but African-
21 Americans are twice as likely to suffer strokes, and have a higher
22 risk of death from a stroke; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Women account for 60 percent of deaths from strokes and
24 are twice as likely to die from a stroke than from breast cancer; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Estimated costs associated with strokes are \$34 billion a
26 year, which includes the costs of health care services, medicines,
27 and work absences; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The National Stroke Association estimates up to 80
29 percent of strokes can be prevented and greater public awareness is
30 needed to highlight risk factors such as family history, personal
31 habits including smoking and drinking alcohol, diet, and lack of
32 physical activity; and
33 **WHEREAS**, It is necessary to increase awareness of symptoms of a
34 stroke, including difficulty thinking clearly, inability to understand
35 language or speech, tingling sensations in the body, and trouble
36 walking or maintaining balance; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The American Stroke Association encourages use of the
38 F.A.S.T. system to determine if a person shows signs of a stroke,
39 including face drooping, arm weakness, or slurred speech, and if so,
40 determining it is time to call 911; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Increased awareness of the symptoms of a stroke will help
42 individuals understand if they or others are suffering from a stroke,
43 which can lead to quicker medical treatment and the prevention of
44 long-term disabilities; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Since 1989, the federal government has designated May as
46 National Stroke Awareness Month to highlight the preventive
47 measures individuals can take to minimize the risk of having a

1 stroke and to raise awareness of the warning signs of a stroke; now,
2 therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
5 *State of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The month of May of each year is designated as “Stroke
8 Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey to foster an
9 awareness and understanding of strokes and stroke prevention,
10 including promoting the risk factors that can cause strokes and
11 symptoms that an individual has suffered in a stroke.

12

13 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
14 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
15 to observe “Stroke Awareness Month” with appropriate activities
16 and programs.

17

18 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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23 This joint resolution designates the month of May of each year as
24 “Stroke Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

25 A stroke disrupts the flow of blood to the brain and can lead to
26 serious disabilities such as paralysis, problems with cognitive skills,
27 and speech impairment. There are two main types of stroke,
28 ischemic and hemorrhagic. People can also suffer from transient
29 ischemic attacks, commonly known as ministrokes. Approximately
30 800,000 Americans have strokes each year, resulting in about
31 140,000 deaths. People of all ages, ethnicities, and genders can
32 suffer from strokes but risk increases with age and African-
33 Americans are twice as likely to suffer from strokes.

34 The American Stroke Association estimates that 80 percent of
35 strokes can be prevented. It is important to raise awareness on the
36 risk factors of a stroke, which include family history, personal
37 habits such as smoking and alcohol consumption, diet and lack of
38 physical activity. It is also key to promote the warning signs that a
39 person may have suffered a stroke or ministroke, including
40 difficulty thinking clearly, inability to understand language or
41 speech, tingling sensations in the body, and trouble walking or
42 maintaining balance. The American Stroke Association encourages
43 use of the F.A.S.T. system to determine if a person shows signs of a
44 stroke, including face drooping, arm weakness, or slurred speech,
45 and if so, deciding it is time to call 911. Promoting the warning
46 signs will help people understand if they or other individuals are
47 suffering from a stroke, which can lead to quicker medical
48 treatment and the prevention of long-term disabilities.