

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 62

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Designates first Thursday of March of each year as “Learning Through Gardening Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the first Thursday of March of
2 each year as “Learning Through Gardening Day.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Agricultural Society’s mission is to
5 preserve and enhance agriculture, farming, and related activities
6 and businesses in New Jersey through educational, informational,
7 and promotional programs; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Agricultural Society’s “Learning Through
9 Gardening” program provides New Jersey elementary schools with
10 financial, educational, and agricultural resources to create a school
11 garden which is used as a living, outdoor learning laboratory; and
12 **WHEREAS**, School gardens are a fun and exciting way to make almost
13 any classroom curriculum come alive and provide students with
14 "real-life" applications of various subjects as they learn; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Whether growing vegetables, fruits, or a variety of herbs,
16 edible gardens are a valuable tool that schools can use to promote
17 healthier eating habits, appreciate locally grown food sources, teach
18 environmental stewardship, and encourage community and social
19 development; and
20 **WHEREAS**, School gardens provide opportunities for students to
21 participate in hands-on learning that teaches their standard
22 curriculum, including math, science, social studies, health, and
23 language arts; and
24 **WHEREAS**, School gardens are proven to help students learn better and
25 enhance their test scores, and are an engaging way to meet
26 “STEM,” or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,
27 curriculum goals; and
28 **WHEREAS**, For example, mathematics education is incorporated into
29 the Learning Through Gardening program as gardens give younger
30 students a chance to identify, analyze, compose, and compare
31 shapes, classify objects, and count the number of objects in each
32 category; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Gardens also provide older students the opportunity to
34 work with numbers while planting seeds and to solve practical
35 computation problems such as calculating the suggested distance
36 between seeds or seedlings; and
37 **WHEREAS**, It is important that all schools in the State promote the
38 New Jersey Agricultural Society’s “Learning Through Gardening”
39 program to enhance the educational achievement of children across
40 the State; now, therefore,
41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
43 *State of New Jersey:*
44
45 1. The first Thursday of March of each year is designated as
46 “Learning Through Gardening Day” in order to recognize the
47 educational importance of the program and to acknowledge the

1 program's success in enhancing the educational achievement of
2 children across the State.

3
4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual
5 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State
6 to observe "Learning through Gardening Day" with appropriate
7 activities and programs.

8
9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill would designate the first Thursday of March of each
15 year as "Learning Through Gardening Day" in order to recognize
16 the educational importance of the program and to acknowledge the
17 "Learning Through Gardening" program's success in enhancing the
18 educational achievement for children across the State.

19 The New Jersey Agricultural Society's mission is to preserve and
20 enhance agriculture, farming, and related activities and businesses in
21 New Jersey through educational, informational, and promotional
22 programs. The New Jersey Agricultural Society's "Learning Through
23 Gardening" program provides New Jersey elementary schools with
24 financial, educational, and agricultural resources to create a school
25 garden which is used as a living, outdoor learning laboratory. School
26 gardens are a fun and exciting way to make almost any classroom
27 curriculum come alive and provide students with "real-life"
28 applications of various subjects as they learn. Whether growing
29 vegetables, fruits, or a variety of herbs, edible gardens are a valuable
30 tool that schools can use to promote healthier eating habits, appreciate
31 locally grown food sources, teach environmental stewardship, and
32 encourage community and social development.

33 School gardens provide opportunities for students to participate in
34 hands-on learning that teaches their standard curriculum, including
35 math, science, social studies, health, and language arts. School
36 gardens are proven to help students learn better and enhance their test
37 scores, and are an engaging way to meet "STEM," or science,
38 technology, engineering, and mathematics, curriculum goals. For
39 example, mathematics education is incorporated into the Learning
40 Through Gardening program as gardens give younger students a
41 chance to identify, analyze, compose, and compare shapes, classify
42 objects, and count the number of objects in each category. Gardens
43 give older students the opportunity to work with numbers while
44 planting seeds and solve practical computation problems such as
45 calculating the suggested distance between seeds or seedlings.