

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 64

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Designates the first week in September of each year as “Resiliency Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the first week in September of
2 each year as “Resiliency Week.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and
5 property by lessening the impact of disasters and is most effective
6 when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation
7 plan; and
8 **WHEREAS**, On October 5, 2018, the U.S. President signed the Disaster
9 Recovery Reform Act into law as part of the Federal Aviation
10 Administration Reauthorization Act; and
11 **WHEREAS**, These reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility for
12 disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of the
13 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and build the
14 nation’s capacity for the next catastrophic event; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The recently enacted federal legislation makes new dollars
16 available for states and communities to undertake pre-disaster
17 mitigation measures and creates new incentives for states to build
18 resiliently; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Since 1908, natural disasters have cost the country more
20 than \$1 trillion dollars; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Disasters affect state and local economies in lost payrolls,
22 lost sales and income tax, and increased disaster recovery times;
23 and
24 **WHEREAS**, According to a FEMA commissioned study conducted by
25 the National Institute of Building Sciences, every dollar spent on
26 hazard mitigation provides the nation with \$6 in future benefits; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Twenty-five percent of small businesses that are impacted
28 by a natural disaster never reopen their doors; and
29 **WHEREAS**, September is National Preparedness Month, and New
30 Jersey Preparedness Month in recognition of the need for all
31 Americans to prepare and plan for recovery after a disaster; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Mitigation planning is a key process used to break the
33 cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for
35 relief services on volunteer organizations such as disaster rescue
36 and recovery teams, along with food banks and homeless shelters
37 that serve our communities by changing their operations to provide
38 additional services to those affected by disaster; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Resiliency Week provides an opportunity to honor the
40 brave men and women who, as first responders, selflessly provide
41 aid in a disaster to safeguard New Jersey citizens and to raise public
42 awareness about the continuing need to plan for future disasters by
43 instituting a pre-disaster mitigation strategy; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Communities throughout the State are encouraged to
45 observe Resiliency Week by planning for natural disasters and
46 developing long-range mitigation strategies for protecting people
47 and property from future hazard events; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

3

4 1. The first week of September of each year is designated as
5 “Resiliency Week” to raise public awareness about the continuing
6 need to plan for future disasters by instituting a pre-disaster
7 mitigation strategy.

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9 2. The Governor may issue each year a proclamation calling
10 upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe the week
11 with appropriate activities and programs.

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13 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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16 STATEMENT

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18 This joint resolution declares the first week of September as
19 "Resiliency Week" to raise public awareness about the continuing
20 need to plan for future disasters by instituting a pre-disaster
21 mitigation strategy.

Resiliency Week dedicates a week to remind New Jersey communities and citizens of the importance of effective pre-disaster mitigation. A focus on pre-disaster mitigation will result in a reduced demand on volunteer organizations for relief services during a disaster by reducing the number of individuals seeking relief, allowing volunteer organizations and first responders to allocate rescue services and resources more effectively.

29 Additionally, Resiliency Week provides an opportunity to honor
30 the brave men and women who, as first responders, selflessly
31 provide aid in a disaster to safeguard New Jersey citizens.