

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 68

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates March 6 of each year as “Black Balloon Day” in NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March 6 of each year as “Black  
2        Balloon Day” in New Jersey.  
3  
4    **WHEREAS**, Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in  
5        the United States; and  
6    **WHEREAS**, In 2016, there were 63,600 lethal drug overdoses, two-  
7        thirds of which involved opioids; and  
8    **WHEREAS**, The number of opioid-related overdose deaths in 2016 was  
9        five times higher than in 1999, coinciding with a nearly 300 percent  
10       increase in the sale of opioid pain medications during that time; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report  
12       that, in 2016, approximately 11.5 million people in the United  
13       States misused prescription opioids; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, In 2015, 2 million people in the United States had a  
15       substance use disorder involving prescription pain relievers and  
16       591,000 had a substance use disorder involving heroin; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
18       Administration reports that many people who become addicted to  
19       opioids go on to abuse heroin; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Nearly 80 percent of heroin users reported using  
21       prescription opioids prior to heroin; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, There was more than a fivefold increase in the heroin  
23       death rate from 2002 to 2014; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, In 2016, there were 2,221 drug overdose deaths in New  
25       Jersey; and  
26   **WHEREAS**, In 2016, according to the National Institute on Drug  
27       Abuse, New Jersey’s opioid-related overdose death rate of 16  
28       deaths per 100,000 persons was higher than the national rate; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, In 2015, illicit and prescription drug overdoses in New  
30       Jersey claimed more lives than homicides, firearm deaths, motor  
31       vehicle crashes, and suicides; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s per capita rate of 8.3 heroin-related deaths  
33       per 100,000 is more than triple the national rate; and  
34   **WHEREAS**, “Black Balloon Day” is dedicated to remembering not only  
35       those lost to drug addiction but also the friends and families of  
36       those affected by the epidemic; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, On “Black Balloon Day,” individuals and organizations  
38       across the country display a black balloon outside of their homes  
39       and businesses and in the community as a sign they have been  
40       affected by drug addiction or an overdose death; and  
41   **WHEREAS**, “Black Balloon Day” has become a national and  
42       international event aimed at bringing awareness to drug overdose  
43       deaths and paying tribute to individuals who have lost their lives to  
44       opioid addiction; now, therefore,  
45  
46       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
47       *of New Jersey:*

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation recognizing March 6 as “Black Balloon Day” in New Jersey, and call upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

## STATEMENT

Under this joint resolution, the Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual proclamation recognizing March 6 as “Black Balloon Day” in NJ and call upon public officials and the citizens of this state to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.