

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 76

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Youth Smoking Prevention and Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May of each year as “Youth
2 Smoking Prevention and Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Nearly a quarter of the State’s middle school students and
5 nearly one half of its high school students have used cigarettes or
6 other tobacco products at least once; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Adolescents who smoke are at risk of more frequent
8 respiratory problems and are generally less healthy than their peers
9 who do not smoke; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Research has shown smoking to have long-term
11 deleterious effects on the health of individuals; smoking related
12 diseases include: lung, mouth, kidney, and other cancers; heart
13 disease and stroke; and respiratory problems such as chronic
14 obstructive lung disorders; and

15 **WHEREAS**, There is a significant human cost resulting from the use of
16 tobacco products; an estimated 480,000 people die in the United
17 States each year as a result of diseases associated with smoking,
18 and an additional 16 million people live with smoking-related
19 illnesses; in New Jersey smoking claims more than 11,000 lives
20 each year; and

21 **WHEREAS**, There are also considerable financial costs from lost
22 productivity and medical expenses that result from smoking;
23 nationally, the estimated cost is nearly \$300 billion per year and in
24 New Jersey, \$2.6 billion; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Because nearly all smokers begin smoking before age 18,
26 middle and high school years may be a particularly important time
27 to address smoking prevention and cessation; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The State currently supports measures to educate vendors
29 about, and to enforce laws regarding, restrictions on the sale of
30 tobacco products to minors; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Because first-time experimentation with tobacco products
32 most often occurs during the summer months, it is appropriate to
33 designate the month of May as “Youth Smoking Prevention and
34 Awareness Month” to promote awareness of the dangers and costs
35 of smoking; now, therefore,

36
37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
38 *State of New Jersey:*

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40 1. The month of May of each year is designated as “Youth
41 Smoking Prevention and Awareness Month” in New Jersey in order
42 to increase public awareness about the dangers of smoking among
43 youth and to encourage efforts supporting smoking prevention and
44 cessation among middle and high school students.

45
46 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
47 proclamation designating May as “Youth Smoking Prevention and
48 Awareness Month” in New Jersey and calling upon public officials

1 and citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate
2 activities and programs.

3

4 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This joint resolution designates May of each year as “Youth
10 Smoking Prevention and Awareness Month” in New Jersey in order
11 to increase public awareness about the dangers of smoking among
12 youth, including the short-term and long-term health consequences
13 associated with tobacco use, and to encourage efforts supporting
14 smoking prevention and cessation among middle and high school
15 students.

16 The joint resolution requests the Governor to issue a
17 proclamation designating May of each year as “Youth Smoking
18 Prevention and Awareness Month” in New Jersey and calling upon
19 public officials and the citizens of the State to observe the month
20 with appropriate activities and programs.