

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 81

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates the month of June of every year, “Dry Drowning Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of June of each year
2 as “Dry Drowning Awareness Month.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, “Dry drowning” and “secondary drowning” are rare but
5 deadly submersion injuries that can cause death well after a person,
6 who is often a young child, has ingested water, such as during time
7 in a swimming pool; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Dry drowning and secondary drowning are caused by
9 ingesting a small amount of water, through the nose or mouth. In
10 dry drowning, that water causes a spasm in the person’s airway,
11 causing it to close up. In secondary drowning, that water gets into
12 the person’s lungs and causes inflammation or swelling of the lung
13 tissue that makes it difficult or impossible for the person’s body to
14 exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Dry drowning usually occurs soon after a person exits the
16 water, but a person experiencing secondary drowning can exhibit
17 symptoms up to 24 hours after the water is ingested. Both dry
18 drowning and secondary drowning can cause trouble breathing, and
19 in the worst case, can be fatal; and

20 **WHEREAS**, People may not recognize the warning signs of dry
21 drowning or secondary drowning, because the symptoms are
22 generally also symptoms of other maladies; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Those symptoms include coughing; increased “work of
24 breathing,” where the person’s body is working hard to breathe;
25 sleepiness; forgetfulness, or change in behavior; and vomiting; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Dry drowning and secondary drowning can be prevented
27 in the same manner as any other kind of drowning – through water
28 safety measures. Children should take swimming lessons in order
29 to become comfortable and skilled at moving around in water,
30 children should be closely supervised while in and around the
31 water, pool safety rules should be enforced, and parents and other
32 adults should practice other water safety measures, including
33 having children wear flotation devices in and around water; and

34 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper, as a matter of public health, to
35 designate the month of June of each year, “Dry Drowning
36 Awareness Month”; now, therefore,

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

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41 1. The month of June each year is designated as “Dry
42 Drowning Awareness Month” to promote awareness about the
43 danger of dry drowning, and to familiarize the public with
44 symptoms of dry drowning.

45
46 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
47 proclamation recognizing “Dry Drowning Awareness Month” in

1 New Jersey and call upon public officials and the people of this
2 State to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

3

4 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately

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STATEMENT

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9 This joint resolution designates the month of June of each year as
10 “Dry Drowning Awareness Month” in New Jersey, and respectfully
11 requests the Governor to annually issue a proclamation recognizing the
12 month and calling on public officials and the people of New Jersey to
13 observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

14 Dry drowning and secondary drowning are rare but deadly
15 submersion injuries that can cause death well after a person, who is
16 often a young child, has ingested water, such as during time in a
17 swimming pool. Dry drowning and secondary drowning are caused
18 by ingesting a small amount of water, through the nose or mouth.
19 In dry drowning, that water causes a spasm in the person’s airway,
20 causing it to close up. In secondary drowning, that water gets into
21 the person’s lungs and causes inflammation or swelling of the lung
22 tissue that makes it difficult or impossible for the person’s body to
23 exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide; and dry drowning usually
24 occurs soon after a person exits the water, but a person experiencing
25 secondary drowning can exhibit symptoms up to 24 hours after the
26 water is ingested. Both cause trouble with breathing, and in the
27 worst case, can be fatal. Broader awareness of the causes and
28 symptoms of dry drowning and secondary drowning will save lives,
29 especially during the busy summer season when family fun
30 oftentimes revolves around water activities.