

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 91

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month” and first Monday in May as “Melanoma Monday.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/20/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May of each year as “Skin
2 Cancer Detection and Prevention Month,” and the first Monday
3 in May as “Melanoma Monday” in New Jersey.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Skin cancer occurs when ultraviolet radiation from the sun
6 and tanning beds damages skin cells, and triggers mutations that
7 cause the cells to multiply rapidly and form malignant tumors; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the
9 United States, with more than 5.4 million new cases diagnosed each
10 year; and
11 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that one in five Americans will develop skin
12 cancer by the age of 70; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer and
14 the leading cause of death from skin disease; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2019,
16 192,310 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the United
17 States, and 7,230 people will die from melanoma; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Melanomas, which often resemble moles and are about the
19 size of a pencil eraser, can be recognized by their asymmetry,
20 border irregularity, color variation, and evolving size, shape, and
21 color; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Melanoma is almost always curable if it is recognized and
23 treated early, but if melanoma is not detected, it can spread to other
24 parts of the body, where it becomes harder to treat and is often
25 fatal; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Melanoma is the third most common form of cancer for
27 young adults 20-29 years old and the ninth most common form of
28 cancer for young people 15-19 years old; and
29 **WHEREAS**, A person’s risk for developing melanoma doubles if he or
30 she has had more than five sunburns, and triples if the person
31 occasionally uses a tanning bed; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Even one indoor tanning session increases the user’s
33 chance of developing melanoma by 20 percent, and each additional
34 session during the same year increases the user’s risk by another
35 two percent; and
36 **WHEREAS**, A person also has a higher chance of developing
37 melanoma if he or she has a large number of moles, fair skin, a
38 weakened immune system, or a personal or family history of
39 melanoma; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The Skin Cancer Foundation estimates that the annual cost
41 of treating melanoma is \$3.3 billion; and
42 **WHEREAS**, These costs will continue to rise, as incidences of
43 melanoma climb nearly two percent annually in the United States,
44 and five percent annually in New Jersey; and
45 **WHEREAS**, People can significantly reduce their chances of
46 developing melanoma by limiting their time in the sun when rays
47 are most intense between 10 AM and 4 PM, wearing protective

1 clothing, and applying sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF)
2 of at least 15; and

3 **WHEREAS**, People are also advised to examine their skin regularly for
4 the warning signs of melanoma, and to see their physicians annually
5 for a professional skin exam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Greater recognition of the dangers of skin cancer,
7 particularly melanoma, and of the importance of preventative
8 measures and early detection, is needed among all residents of the
9 State; now, therefore,

10

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
12 *State of New Jersey:*

13

14 1. The month of May each year shall be designated as “Skin
15 Cancer Detection and Prevention Month, and the first Monday of
16 May each year shall be designated “Melanoma Monday,” in order to
17 recognize the dangers of melanoma and other skin cancers and to
18 promote prevention and early detection among residents of the
19 State.

20

21 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation
22 recognizing May as “Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month”
23 and the first Monday in May as “Melanoma Monday,” and shall call
24 upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the
25 month and day with appropriate activities and programs.

26

27 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

28

29

30

STATEMENT

31

32 This joint resolution would designate May of each year as “Skin
33 Cancer Detection and Prevention Month,” and the first Monday in
34 May of each year as “Melanoma Monday,” in order to recognize the
35 dangers of melanoma and other skin cancers and to promote
36 prevention and early detection.

37 Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United
38 States, with more than 5.4 million new cases diagnosed each year.
39 Skin cancer occurs when ultraviolet radiation from the sun and
40 tanning beds damages skin cells, and triggers mutations that cause
41 the cells to multiply rapidly to form tumors. It is estimated that one
42 in five Americans will develop skin cancer in the course of their
43 lifetimes. Of the various types of skin cancer, melanoma is the
44 most dangerous, and is the leading cause of death from skin disease.
45 In fact, the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2019,
46 192,310 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the U.S., and
47 7,230 people will die from melanoma. The Skin Cancer Foundation

1 estimates that the annual cost of treating melanoma in the U.S. is
2 \$3.3 billion.

3 Melanomas, which often resemble moles the size of a pencil
4 eraser, can be recognized by their asymmetry, border irregularity,
5 color variation, and evolving size, shape, and color. Melanoma is
6 almost always curable if it is recognized and treated early, but if
7 melanoma is not detected, it can spread to other parts of the body,
8 where it becomes harder to treat and is often fatal. Residents can
9 reduce their chances of developing melanoma by limiting their time
10 in the sun when rays are most intense between 10 AM and 4 PM,
11 wearing protective clothing, and applying sunscreen with a sun
12 protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. People are also advised to
13 regularly examine their skin, and to see their physicians annually
14 for a professional skin exam.

15 This joint resolution requires the Governor to issue an annual
16 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this
17 State to observe “Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month”
18 and “Melanoma Monday” with appropriate activities and programs.