

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 113

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Urges nursing homes and other senior living facilities to use Jersey Fresh produce.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2021)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging nursing homes and other senior
2 living facilities to use Jersey Fresh produce.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, For senior citizens a healthy and nutritious diet boosts
5 immunity, mental acuteness, and energy levels, keeps weight in
6 check, and reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood
7 pressure, type-II diabetes, bone loss, cancer, and Alzheimer's
8 disease; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Nutritional needs vary from one person to another,
10 depending on genetics and other health factors, and therefore it is
11 important to have a variety of nutrient-dense foods available for
12 individuals in nursing homes and other senior living facilities; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Fruits and vegetables are considered nutrient-dense foods
14 and New Jersey produces more than 100 different kinds of fresh
15 fruits and vegetables; and
16 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
17 (NJDA) created the first in the nation state-sponsored agricultural
18 branding program, Jersey Fresh, in order to distinguish the high
19 quality of New Jersey-produced fruits and vegetables from others in
20 the marketplace; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The logo, Jersey Fresh, indicates that the contents have
22 been inspected and meet standards equal to, or better than, U.S. No.
23 1 standards; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Jersey Fresh produce is distinctive in quality and freshness
25 because it is grown in New Jersey and harvested at its peak ripened
26 stage; and
27 **WHEREAS**, When produce is picked at its peak of flavor and freshness,
28 more of the very important vitamins and minerals in each type of
29 produce are retained within the commodity; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important part of a
31 healthy diet because they provide essential nutrients that are linked
32 to the prevention of future disease development, reducing the risk
33 of heart disease and stroke, preventing some types of cancer, and
34 lowering the risk of eye and digestive problems; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Using Jersey Fresh produce in nursing homes and other
36 senior living facilities may increase awareness of the important role
37 fresh produce plays in promoting good health and preventing future
38 disease development; and
39 **WHEREAS**, To improve health outcomes for senior citizens it is
40 imperative that nursing homes and other senior living facilities in
41 the State, whenever possible, give preference to Jersey Fresh and
42 other agricultural food products and commodities grown or raised
43 in New Jersey when entering into or renewing a contract for the
44 purchase of such goods; now, therefore,
45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
47 *Jersey:*

AR113 DANCER, DUNN

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1 1. This House urges nursing homes and other senior living
2 facilities operating in the State to purchase Jersey Fresh produce to
3 use in meals for senior citizens.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President of the Health Care Association of New Jersey, the Commissioner of Health, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

STATEMENT

13 This resolution urges nursing homes and other senior living
14 facilities operating in the State to purchase Jersey Fresh produce to
15 use in meals for senior citizens.

For senior citizens a healthy and nutritious diet boosts immunity, mental acuteness, and energy levels, keeps weight in check, and reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type-II diabetes, bone loss, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease. Nutritional needs vary from one person to another, depending on genetics and other health factors, and therefore it is important to have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available for individuals in nursing homes and other senior living facilities. Fruits and vegetables are considered nutrient-dense foods and New Jersey produces more than 100 different kinds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Jersey Fresh produce is distinctive in quality and freshness because it is grown in New Jersey and harvested at its peak ripened stage, allowing important vitamins and minerals in each type of produce to remain within the commodity. Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet because they provide essential nutrients that prevent future disease development. Using Jersey Fresh produce in nursing homes and other senior living facilities may increase awareness of the important role fresh produce plays in promoting good health and preventing future disease development.