

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 162

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 28, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman GERARD SCHARFENBERGER

District 13 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Catalano, McGuckin, DePhillips, Assemblywoman Dunn,

Assemblymen DiMaio, Peterson, Holley, Rooney, Peters, Assemblywomen

Stanfield, DiMaso, N.Munoz, Assemblymen Space and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to allow high school graduations to occur with proper social distancing during COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/28/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to allow high
2 school graduations to occur with proper social distancing during
3 the COVID-19 pandemic.
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5 **WHEREAS**, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 107 which
6 required all New Jersey residents to stay at home until further
7 notice; and
8 **WHEREAS**, This Statewide stay-at-home order forced all public and
9 private schools and colleges throughout the State to close for the
10 duration of the school year; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Schools have had to adapt their entire curriculums to
12 provide online education and ensure that New Jersey students will
13 be able to meet matriculation requirements throughout this
14 unprecedented time; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Thousands of high school seniors will be graduating from
16 New Jersey high schools this spring; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Graduating students have been forced to be flexible and
18 remain positive while having to miss many of the senior year
19 milestones they have looked forward to for their entire high school
20 careers; and
21 **WHEREAS**, As a result of mandatory social distancing guidelines to
22 stop the spread of COVID-19, graduating students have been forced
23 to miss senior proms, senior banquets, their final varsity sports
24 seasons, senior trips, and the students have been unable to spend
25 their final months in high school with their fellow students and
26 friends; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Graduation remains the final milestone in graduating
28 students' high school careers and many students and teachers hope
29 graduation ceremonies will be able to continue to take place; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Graduation ceremonies serve as the culmination of
31 education and as an important transition point for graduating
32 students; and
33 **WHEREAS**, After graduation, graduated students will continue upon
34 diverse paths into futures that may include higher education, the
35 military, and various fields of work; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Graduation ceremonies are a time for students to celebrate
37 their educational accomplishments, a time for parents to recognize
38 the efforts and hard work of their children, and a time for teachers
39 to see the students they have educated enter the next stage of their
40 lives; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Graduation ceremonies are among the most important and
42 memorable milestones of graduating students' high school careers;
43 and
44 **WHEREAS**, It is possible to hold open air high school graduation
45 ceremonies that observe social distancing and other COVID-19
46 related safety protocols; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Tens of thousands of capable, devoted, resilient, and
5 resourceful school officials, teachers, school board members,
6 parents, and students stand ready to make the necessary
7 preparations for safe and responsible graduation ceremonies across
8 the State; now, therefore,

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27 Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 107 which required all
28 New Jersey residents to stay at home until further notice. This
29 Statewide stay-at-home order forced all public and private schools
30 and colleges throughout the State to close for the duration of the
31 school year. Schools have had to adapt their entire curriculums to
32 provide online education and ensure that graduating students will
33 still be able to meet matriculation requirements throughout this
34 unprecedented time.

Graduation ceremonies serve as the culmination of education and as an important transition point for high school students. After graduation, graduated students will follow diverse paths into futures that may include higher education, the military, and various fields of work. Graduation ceremonies are a time for students to celebrate their educational accomplishments, a time for parents to recognize

1 the efforts and hard work of their children, and a time for teachers
2 to see the students they have mentored for four years enter the next
3 stage of their lives. For these reasons, the Governor is urged to
4 allow high school graduations to occur with proper social distancing
5 during the COVID-19 pandemic.