

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 191

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman EDWARD H. THOMSON

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Raises awareness of blood shortages caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/8/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** raising awareness of the blood
2 shortages caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.
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4 **WHEREAS**, As an unintended consequence of the coronavirus disease
5 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the social distancing guidelines
6 that have helped mitigate the spread of COVID-19, blood
7 collections have been severely impacted; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 75% of the nation's
9 blood supply came from blood drives posted in communities at
10 places of worship, schools, colleges, firehouses, but stay-at-home
11 orders across the country have eliminated many of the convenient
12 opportunities to visit a blood drive in offices or school parking lots
13 which has reduced the number of blood drives by two-thirds; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Prior to the shutdown in March, New Jersey had already
15 begun to suffer from a critical blood shortage with many citing that
16 the busy 2019 holiday season had resulted in reduced donations;
17 and
18 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, New Jersey high schools and colleges accounted
19 for over 18 percent, or approximately 37,000 units, of total blood
20 collections in the State; and
21 **WHEREAS**, From April through June 2020, only 437 units were
22 collected at high school and college drives as compared to over
23 10,000 units for the same period in 2019, representing nearly a 56
24 percent decrease in units collected; and
25 **WHEREAS**, With the 2020-2021 school year still uncertain and many
26 places of work operating remotely, the State blood supply is
27 significantly threatened and blood collection agencies are
28 scrambling to stabilize the blood supply; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Blood donations can be conducted safely despite the
30 concerns of COVID-19 transmission, if certain precautions are
31 taken such as scheduling appointments, requiring masks, pre-
32 screening donors for symptoms, and taking temperatures on-site;
33 and
34 **WHEREAS**, The Governor has enacted Executive Order No. 107 of
35 2020, which has permitted the operation of blood donation drives to
36 continue throughout the pandemic in order to meet the critical
37 medical needs of the State and has required that certain safety
38 protocols are implemented to prevent the transmission of COVID-
39 19 at blood donation sites; and
40 **WHEREAS**, It is in the best interest of the State to raise awareness of
41 the critical blood shortage in the State that has been exacerbated by
42 the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage individuals to donate
43 blood; now, therefore,
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45 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
46 *Jersey:*

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