

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 30

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman N.Munoz

SYNOPSIS

Urges counties and municipalities to adopt “Slow Down, Save Lives” public awareness initiative.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging counties and municipalities to
2 undertake an initiative to raise awareness of efforts that can
3 reduce road traffic deaths.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Road traffic crashes lead to the loss of over 1.2 million
6 lives and cause non-fatal injuries to as many as 50 million people
7 around the world each year, and nearly half of the people who die
8 or are injured in these crashes are pedestrians, cyclists, and
9 motorcyclists; and
10 **WHEREAS**, In 2016 the number of motor vehicle deaths in the United
11 States totaled 40,200, which represents a six percent increase from
12 2015, and a 14 percent increase from 2014; and
13 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Safety Council, the estimated
14 cost of motor vehicle deaths, injuries, and property damage in 2016
15 was \$432.5 billion, a 12 percent increase from 2015; and
16 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey State Police, 603 people died
17 from road traffic crashes in this State in 2016 and, in 2015, there
18 were 264,582 crashes which caused 547 deaths and 60,431 injuries;
19 and
20 **WHEREAS**, There is a misconception that road traffic crashes are
21 accidental and that nothing can be done to prevent them when, in
22 reality, these everyday occurrences are both predictable and
23 preventable; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Studies performed by many of the world’s leading road
25 safety experts and their agencies have proven certain interventions
26 to be effective in reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries; and
27 **WHEREAS**, A number of countries around the world have implemented
28 evidence-based practices which have successfully reduced the
29 number of road traffic crashes; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Speed management, enforcement of laws, and raising
31 public awareness and support through education are some of the
32 evidence-based interventions that can significantly decrease the
33 number of road traffic deaths; and
34 **WHEREAS**, According to the World Resources Institute, the
35 consequences of a road traffic crash will be substantially less severe
36 at a lower speed, especially if the crash involves a pedestrian,
37 cyclist, or motorcyclist; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Studies have found that a pedestrian has a 90 percent
39 chance of survival if hit by a vehicle moving at speed of 18.64 mph;
40 a 70 percent chance of survival if moving at a speed of 24.85 mph;
41 and a less than 20 percent chance of survival if the vehicle is
42 moving at a speed of 31 mph; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Additional studies have found that lower speeds only
44 marginally increase trip times in urban areas; and
45 **WHEREAS**, In an effort to address the loss of lives on its roadways,
46 Hudson County has adopted a “Slow Down, Save Lives” initiative
47 to increase enforcement of all traffic safety laws as well as
48 pedestrian traffic laws, such as jaywalking; and

AR30 CHIARAVALLOTI, VAINIERI HUTTLE

1 **WHEREAS**, It is in the best interests of the citizens of New Jersey for
2 all counties and municipalities in this State to implement a “Slow
3 Down, Save Lives” initiative to curb speeding along the State’s
4 roads and highways through enforcement of laws and by providing
5 the public with the necessary knowledge and incentives to reduce
6 the number of road traffic injuries and deaths; and

7 **WHEREAS**, It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper for this House
8 to urge all counties and municipalities in this State to implement a
9 “Slow Down, Save Lives” initiative; now, therefore,

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

14 1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urges all
15 counties and municipalities to undertake a “Slow Down, Save Lives”
16 initiative designed to improve safety on the State’s roads and highways
17 through enforcement of speed limits and traffic safety laws, including
18 laws that require drivers to yield to pedestrians in walkways and
19 prohibit jaywalking, and by providing the public with the necessary
20 information and incentives to reduce the number of road traffic injuries
21 and deaths in this State.

23 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
24 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
25 New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Conference
26 of Mayors, and the Association of Counties.

28
29 STATEMENT

31 This resolution urges all counties and municipalities to
32 implement a “Slow Down, Save Lives” public awareness initiative
33 designed to improve safety on the State’s roads and highways
34 through enforcement of speed limits and traffic safety laws,
35 including laws that require drivers to yield to pedestrians in
36 walkways and prohibit jaywalking, and by providing the public with
37 the necessary information and incentives to reduce the number of
38 road traffic injuries and deaths in this State.

Road traffic crashes lead to the loss of over 1.2 million lives and cause non-fatal injuries to as many as 50 million people around the world each year. Nearly half of the people who die or are injured in road traffic crashes are pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.

In 2016 the number of motor vehicle deaths in the United States totaled 40,200, which represents a six percent increase from 2015, and a 14 percent increase from 2014. According to the New Jersey State Police, 603 people died from road traffic crashes in this State in 2016 and, in 2015, there were 264,582 crashes which caused 547 deaths and 60,431 injuries. In addition to the devastating loss of

1 life, there are significant economic repercussions associated with
2 motor vehicle deaths, injuries, and property damage, which were
3 estimated by the National Safety Council to cost \$432.5 billion in
4 2016, a 12 percent increase from 2015.

5 There is a misconception that road traffic crashes are accidental
6 and that nothing can be done to prevent them. In reality, although
7 road traffic crashes are an everyday occurrence, they are both
8 predictable and preventable. Studies performed by many of the
9 world's leading road safety experts and their agencies have proven
10 certain interventions, such as speed management, enforcement of
11 laws, and raising public awareness and support through education,
12 to be effective in reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries. A
13 number of countries around the world have implemented evidence-
14 based practices which have successfully reduced the number of road
15 traffic crashes.

16 It is in the best interests of the citizens of New Jersey for all
17 counties and municipalities in this State to implement a "Slow Down,
18 Save Lives" initiative to curb speeding along the State's roads and
19 highways through enforcement of laws and by providing the public
20 with the necessary information and incentives to reduce the number of
21 road traffic injuries and deaths.