

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 41

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New York to join NJ in efforts to improve water quality of Greenwood Lake.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the State of New York to join
2 New Jersey in efforts to improve the water quality of Greenwood
3 Lake.
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5 **WHEREAS**, Greenwood Lake is an interstate lake approximately nine
6 miles long, straddling the border of New York and New Jersey; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Greenwood Lake is located in the Township of West
8 Milford, New Jersey (in Passaic County) and the Village of
9 Greenwood Lake in the Town of Warwick, New York (in Orange
10 County); and
11 **WHEREAS**, Greenwood Lake is a popular destination for outdoor
12 activities, such as fishing, water skiing, jet skiing, canoeing,
13 kayaking, swimming, boating, and hiking in the surrounding parks;
14 and
15 **WHEREAS**, In 1999, the Legislature and the legislature of New York
16 created the bi-state Greenwood Lake Commission, the purpose of
17 which is to provide a means to effectively facilitate the cooperation
18 of officials in both New Jersey and New York to help ensure that
19 the natural, scenic, and recreational resources of Greenwood Lake
20 and its watershed are protected from despoliation due to
21 environmental and other threats from both sides of the border; and
22 **WHEREAS**, In July 2019, The Department of Environmental Protection
23 published a news bulletin that advised the public to avoid
24 swimming in, or coming in contact with, water in Greenwood Lake
25 following water monitoring and aerial remote-sensing surveillance
26 that confirmed the extensive presence of a harmful algal bloom; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Harmful algal blooms occur when colonies of microscopic
28 algae or bacteria in freshwater or saltwater grow out of control,
29 producing toxins which may be harmful to humans and animals;
30 and
31 **WHEREAS**, Harmful algal blooms are exacerbated by high
32 temperatures and nutrient-laden runoff from farms, septic systems,
33 and lawns; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The no-swimming advisory will adversely impact the
35 economies of the municipalities surrounding Greenwood Lake,
36 which benefit from the presence of thousands of tourists every
37 summer; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Finding a permanent way to control the nutrient levels in
39 Greenwood Lake to prevent future harmful algal blooms will
40 require the cooperation and expertise of officials in both New
41 Jersey and New York, and it may require additional funding from
42 both states; and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for this House to urge New York
44 state and local governments to work with their counterparts in New
45 Jersey to find a long-term solution for the maintenance of
46 Greenwood Lake and to provide equal funding to implement this
47 solution; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey:*

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4 1. This House urges state and local governments in New York
5 to work with their counterparts in New Jersey to find a long-term
6 solution for the maintenance of Greenwood Lake and to provide
7 equal funding to implement this solution.

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9 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Clerk of the
10 General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Governor of New
11 York, the President of the New York State Senate, the Speaker of
12 the New York State Assembly, the members of the New York
13 Legislature representing Greenwood Lake, the county executive of
14 Orange County, and the Mayor of the Village of Greenwood Lake.

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STATEMENT

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19 This resolution urges state and local governments in New York
20 to work with their counterparts in New Jersey to find a long-term
21 solution for the maintenance of Greenwood Lake and to provide
22 equal funding to implement this solution. In July 2019, The
23 Department of Environmental Protection published a news bulletin
24 that advised the public to avoid swimming in or coming in contact
25 with water in Greenwood Lake following water monitoring and
26 aerial remote-sensing surveillance that confirmed the extensive
27 presence of a harmful algal bloom.