

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 59

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Designates November 13, 2019 as “Day of Civility” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



AR59 MCKNIGHT

2

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** designating November 13, 2019 as
2 “Day of Civility” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, In recent years, American political and social discourse has
5 been fraught with divisive rhetoric; and

6 **WHEREAS**, “Civility,” which means courtesy or politeness, would
7 greatly enhance social relations among Americans and improve
8 political leaders’ ability to govern; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Ninety-three percent of Americans consider incivility to be
10 a problem in the United States, most classifying it as a major
11 problem; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Seventy-five percent of Americans blame politicians for
13 the erosion of civility in our society; and

14 **WHEREAS**, More than eight in 10 Americans have experienced
15 incivility and in a wide variety of places and settings; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Among those Americans who have reported experiencing
17 incivility, such encounters are frequent, averaging 10.6 times per
18 week; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Nine out of 10 Americans believe that incivility leads to
20 intimidation, threats, harassment, discrimination, violence, and
21 cyber-bullying; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Most Americans believe that civility benefits society by
23 building national pride and by easing tension and conflict; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Since 1998, “World Kindness Day” has taken place
25 annually on November 13 to celebrate, promote, and pledge acts of
26 kindness; and

27 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
28 interest, to designate November 13, 2019 as “Day of Civility” in
29 New Jersey and to encourage the citizens of this State to join the
30 observance of this day; now, therefore,

31
32 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
33 *Jersey:*

34
35 1. November 13, 2019 is hereby designated as “Day of
36 Civility” in New Jersey.

37
38 2. All citizens of this State are urged to observe “Day of
39 Civility” with educational programs and activities designed to foster
40 civility.

41
42 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
43 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
44 Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, the
45 President of the New Jersey School Boards Association, the
46 Executive Director of the New Jersey Center For Civic Education,
47 the President of the New Jersey Association of Counties, the

1 President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and the
2 President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This resolution designates November 13, 2019 as “Day of
8 Civility” in New Jersey to coincide with “World Kindness Day.” In
9 recent years, American political and social discourse has been
10 fraught with divisive rhetoric. “Civility,” which means courtesy or
11 politeness, would greatly enhance social relations among Americans
12 and improve political leaders’ ability to govern. A vast majority of
13 Americans consider incivility to be a problem, and many blame
14 politicians for the erosion of civility in our society. Most
15 Americans have experienced incivility and in a wide variety of
16 places and settings. Among those Americans who have reported
17 experiencing incivility, such encounters are frequent. Most
18 Americans believe that incivility leads to intimidation, threats,
19 harassment, discrimination, violence, and cyber-bullying, and that
20 civility benefits society by building national pride and by easing
21 tension and conflict.