

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 94

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Expresses support for Great Healthy Yard Project.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing support for the Great
2 Healthy Yard Project.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Property owners frequently use chemicals such as
5 pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and others to protect and care for
6 their lawns and gardens; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Chemicals can accumulate and contaminate drinking water
8 by entering groundwater through rainwater runoff that drains into
9 streams or by moving through the soil; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Exposure to the chemicals can have adverse effects on
11 human health by causing birth defects, infertility, liver and kidney
12 damage, cancer, or behavioral difficulties through airborne
13 exposure, direct contact, or consumption of contaminated drinking
14 water; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Nationally, 94 percent of water samples and nearly 60
16 percent of shallow well samples contained at least one pesticide;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, The contamination of streams and other bodies of water
19 leads to blooms of algae that release toxins that can harm humans
20 and wildlife who come into contact with the water; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Harmful algae blooms have been observed in several lakes
22 and reservoirs across New Jersey such as Rosedale Lake, Lake
23 Hopatcong, Greenwood Lake, and Spruce Run; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The chemicals also pose a threat to wildlife by the
25 pollution of waters in streams, lakes, and other surface water
26 bodies; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Ninety percent of fish samples taken from streams across
28 the country contained traces of at least one chemical; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The Great Healthy Yard project seeks to encourage
30 individuals to limit the use of these chemicals due to the damage
31 the chemicals can cause to humans and wildlife; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The Great Healthy Yard Project seeks to educate
33 individuals on what chemicals they apply to their yards and the
34 harmful effects those chemicals have on the environment; and

35 **WHEREAS**, By supporting the Great Healthy Yard Project, the General
36 Assembly encourages the residents of New Jersey to reduce the use
37 of these chemicals and to be aware of the harmful effects these
38 chemicals have on the environment; now, therefore,

39
40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
41 *Jersey:*

42
43 1. This House expresses support for the Great Healthy Yard
44 Project.

45
46 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State
47 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
48 Governor and to the Great Healthy Yard Project.

STATEMENT

This resolution expresses support for the Great Healthy Yard Project.

Property owners frequently use chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to protect and care for their lawns and gardens. However, these chemicals have harmful effects on both humans and wildlife.

Exposure to the chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and may enter drinking water supplies through rainwater runoff that drains into streams or by entering the groundwater through the soil. Drinking water that has been contaminated by these chemicals, airborne exposure and direct contact can lead to health problems such as cancer, birth defects, infertility, liver and kidney damage, or behavioral difficulties. Ninety-four percent of water samples and 60 percent shallow wells sampled across the country contained at least one pesticide. Additionally, these chemicals can cause toxic algae blooms in surface water that humans and wildlife use. New Jersey has already witnessed the growth of harmful algae in several lakes and reservoirs such as Rosedale Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Greenwood Lake, and Spruce Run.

In order to combat the dangers of these products, it is important that individuals limit and reduce the use of chemicals. The Great Healthy Yard Project educates individuals about the harmful effects of these chemicals and encourages them to reduce or limit their use. By expressing support for the Great Healthy Yard Project, the General Assembly encourages the residents of New Jersey to reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other toxic chemicals and be aware of the harmful effects these chemicals have on the environment.