

P.L. 2021, Joint Resolution No. 9, *approved January 10, 2022*
Senate Joint Resolution No. 75

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 22 each year as "Personal
2 Carbon Footprint Awareness Day."

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4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's long coastline and low elevation mean that it
5 will be one of the states most affected by climate change; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Although each person's individual contribution to
7 greenhouse gas production may be small, the cumulative effect of
8 small behavior changes by millions of New Jerseyans would be
9 significant; and

10 **WHEREAS**, There are habits that citizens of the State could easily
11 adopt today that would reduce their carbon footprint, which is a
12 measure of the net amount of greenhouse gases that are released as
13 result of a person's energy use, transportation, consumption, and
14 other actions; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Transportation has recently surpassed electricity
16 generation as the top source of greenhouse gases, so walking and
17 biking more, taking public transportation, switching to an electric
18 car, and simply driving less aggressively are effective ways of
19 reducing one's personal carbon footprint; and

20 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's "Electric Discount and Energy Competition
21 Act," enacted in 1999, allows consumers to choose their electricity
22 supplier, and switching to a supplier that uses renewable sources of
23 electricity may be an option for many citizens of the State; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Eliminating drafts in one's home by adding weather-
25 stripping to doors and caulk to windows, adding insulation,
26 switching to LED light bulbs, and turning down the heat and air-
27 conditioning when the home is unoccupied will reduce electricity
28 and gas usage, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, and
29 will also save money; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Cutting down on meat consumption is also an easy way to
31 reduce one's personal carbon footprint, and, according to a study by
32 researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, eating just one
33 vegetarian meal per week for a year makes the same difference in
34 greenhouse gas emissions as driving 1,000 fewer miles; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Using more reusable items—such as thermoses, durable
36 plastic or glass food containers, and reusable shopping bags—and
37 fewer single-use items also uses less energy and can reduce
38 pollution caused by littering; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Food waste generates methane emissions as it decomposes
40 in landfills, so reducing the amount of food that one wastes—as
41 well as composting household vegetable waste—can reduce the
42 emissions of this potent greenhouse gas; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, April 22, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of "Earth Day,"
5 which in 1970 helped to raise public awareness of the
6 environmental causes of public health problems, and the theme of
7 the 2020 "Earth Day" is climate action, making this an ideal year to
8 take time to consider one's personal carbon footprint; and

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43 Awareness Day."