

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 113**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL**

**District 10 (Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Corrado**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Governor to safely reopen non-essential businesses within State during COVID-19 pandemic.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2020)**

SCR113 HOLZAPFEL

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1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to safely reopen  
2       non-essential businesses within the State during the COVID-19  
3       pandemic.

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5   **WHEREAS**, The United States of America and this State are  
6       confronting the viral disease known as COVID-19; and

7   **WHEREAS**, The proliferation of COVID-19 has necessitated certain  
8       emergency measures to curtail its spread, which include keeping  
9       a distance of at least six feet between other persons and  
10      maintaining sanitary health practices, such as frequent hand  
11      washing; and

12   **WHEREAS**, As part of these emergency measures, the Governor  
13      signed two Executive Orders, Nos. 107 and 119 of 2020, which  
14      direct all residents to stay at home until further notice and close  
15      all non-essential businesses and construction sites; and

16   **WHEREAS**, These orders severely damage the economic well-being  
17      of thousands of businesses within the State, with 53 percent of  
18      businesses having either reduced employee hours or having laid  
19      off workers; and

20   **WHEREAS**, Nearly a third of the businesses that are affected by  
21      these orders are unsure whether they will reopen once the orders  
22      are lifted; and

23   **WHEREAS**, It would take affected businesses at least a year to  
24      generate revenues comparable to their pre-COVID-19 profits if  
25      they had to operate at 50 percent capacity; and

26   **WHEREAS**, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
27      and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have  
28      released guidelines to help reduce exposure to COVID-19 in the  
29      workplace; and

30   **WHEREAS**, 70 percent of affected businesses believe they can fully  
31      operate under CDC guidelines; and

32   **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 related cases and hospitalizations in this  
33      State have been decreasing, with a more than 40 percent drop in  
34      hospitalizations and cases since their peak in mid-April; and

35   **WHEREAS**, Responsibly reopening the State in a manner that is  
36      attuned to the needs of its business community would be  
37      beneficial to every citizen of this State; now, therefore,

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39       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*  
40       *General Assembly concurring):*

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42       1. This Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the  
43       Governor to safely reopen non-essential businesses within the State  
44       during the coronavirus disease 2019 health crisis.

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46       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
47       shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
48       Secretary of the Senate to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This resolution urges the Governor to safely resume non-essential business operations within the State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United States of America and this State are confronting the viral disease known as COVID-19, which has necessitated certain emergency measures to slow its spread. These include keeping a distance of at least six feet between other persons and maintaining sanitary health practices, such as frequent hand washing.

As part of these emergency measures, the Governor has signed two Executive Orders, Nos. 107 and 119 of 2020, which direct all residents to stay at home until further notice and close all non-essential businesses and construction sites. These orders, which were signed with the hope of reducing the spread of COVID-19, impact thousands of businesses within the State, with 53 percent of businesses having either reduced employee hours or having laid off workers as a result. The length of these orders has also placed the viability of many businesses in doubt, with nearly a third of affected businesses being unsure of whether they will reopen once the orders are lifted.

Under the new workplace guidelines released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, businesses now have guidance on how to safely reopen while reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. With most affected businesses believing they can fully operate safely under the CDC guidelines, and new data showing cases and hospitalizations of the disease decreasing, now is the time for the Governor to safely reopen the State. The sooner this process begins, the faster the State can recover from this difficult situation.