

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 131**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges residents of New Jersey to quit smoking and vaping in light of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging residents of New Jersey to
2 quit smoking and vaping in light of the coronavirus disease 2019
3 (COVID-19) pandemic.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, People who smoke tobacco are at increased risk of
6 developing numerous adverse health conditions, including lung
7 diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
8 emphysema, and chronic bronchitis, as well as heart disease,
9 cancer, diabetes, and certain autoimmune disorders; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Although the risks of using vapor products are yet to be
11 fully understood, vaping has also been associated with a number of
12 adverse health complications, including certain respiratory
13 conditions, and is associated with increased use of traditional
14 cigarettes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The risks of smoking are not limited to the smoker alone.
16 People exposed to secondhand smoke are also at increased risk of
17 developing serious and chronic respiratory conditions, coronary
18 disease, and stroke; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has
20 developed into a global pandemic, is a disease that primarily affects
21 the respiratory system. In many cases, COVID-19 results in severe
22 respiratory symptoms that can cause death or require prolonged
23 treatment using a ventilator; and

24 **WHEREAS**, According to the Center for Tobacco Control Research and
25 Education at the University of California, San Francisco, smoking
26 is associated with more than a doubled risk of disease progression
27 in those who have contracted COVID-19; and

28 **WHEREAS**, According to the World Health Organization, smokers who
29 contract COVID-19 are more likely to experience severe symptoms
30 from the disease than are non-smokers; and

31 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse,
32 because the SARS-CoV-2 virus attacks the lungs, smokers and
33 users of vapor products who contract COVID-19 are at enhanced
34 risk of experiencing severe symptoms and developing
35 complications from the disease; and

36 **WHEREAS**, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
37 the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Surgeon
38 General of the United States, and state health departments across
39 the country advocate that the preventative measures implemented in
40 response to the COVID-19 pandemic include quitting smoking and
41 vaping and avoiding exposure to secondhand smoke; and

42 **WHEREAS**, Smokers and vapor product users who quit tobacco
43 products will be taking an essential step to reduce the risk of
44 developing severe and potentially-fatal complications in the event
45 they contract COVID-19, and will additionally be taking an
46 important step to improve their overall health and remove from
47 their lives a significant risk factor for developing serious health

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1 problems associated with the use of tobacco products; now,
2 therefore,

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

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7 1. The New Jersey State Legislature strongly urges all citizens
8 of the State who currently smoke or use vapor products to quit
9 smoking and vaping, both to help protect their own health during
10 the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and to protect
11 the health of those around them.

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13 2. New Jersey residents who smoke or vape are further
14 encouraged to take advantage of the resources that are available to
15 assist them in their efforts to quit smoking and vaping, including,
16 but not limited to, calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW for coaching
17 assistance and other support.

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19 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
20 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of
21 the General Assembly to the Commissioner of Health and to each
22 county and local board of health for use in any appropriate
23 informational and outreach campaigns as may be undertaken by the
24 Department of Health and the county and local boards of health in
25 response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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28 STATEMENT

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30 This concurrent resolution urges people who smoke or use vapor
31 products to quit smoking and vaping in light of their enhanced risk
32 of developing severe and potentially fatal complications in the
33 event they contract coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
34 COVID-19, which has developed into a global pandemic, is caused
35 by a virus that primarily affects the respiratory system. The
36 symptoms of COVID-19 can be fatal and in many cases require
37 prolonged treatment using a ventilator. People who smoke or vape
38 are at significantly higher risk of developing serious adverse
39 symptoms and complications from COVID-19.

40 This resolution urges people who smoke or vape to quit smoking
41 or vaping, both to protect their own health and the health of those
42 around them. The resolution further encourages people who smoke
43 or vape to take advantage of the resources that are available to
44 assist them in their efforts to quit smoking and vaping, including,
45 but not limited to, calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW for coaching
46 assistance and other support.

47 Copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Commissioner
48 of Health and to each county and local board of health for use in

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- 1 any appropriate informational and outreach campaigns as may be
- 2 undertaken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.