

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 72**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress and President to enact legislation establishing certain gun control measures.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** respectfully memorializing Congress
2 and the President to enact legislation establishing certain gun
3 control measures.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The United States has the highest rate of gun ownership in
6 the world and there are more guns than people in this country; and
7 **WHEREAS**, More Americans have been killed by guns since 1968 than
8 have died in all the United States wars combined, beginning with
9 the Revolutionary War, and weaknesses in this nation's gun laws
10 have resulted in a clear and imminent danger to its citizens; and
11 **WHEREAS**, In recent years, the United States has been witness to
12 numerous horrific and preventable firearms-related mass tragedies
13 which have heightened awareness of the danger that exists when
14 adequate protections are not utilized to ensure that only responsible
15 gun owners have access to firearms; and
16 **WHEREAS**, United States citizens are dying each year due to gun
17 violence in public schools, movie theaters, workplaces, houses of
18 worship, nightclubs, college campuses, athletic events, and
19 concerts; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Gun violence costs the United States an estimated \$229
21 billion annually; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The guns purchased to commit 63 of the 79 mass shootings
23 since 1982 were purchased legally; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The American Medical Association adopted a policy in
25 2016 calling gun violence in the United States a "public health
26 crisis" requiring a comprehensive public health response and
27 solution; and
28 **WHEREAS**, In 2004, Congress allowed the 1994 federal ban on the sale
29 of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition
30 feeding devices to expire, even though these weapons cause
31 devastating wounds and penetrate body armor, and are the "weapon
32 of choice" for mass shooters, drug traffickers, weapons traffickers,
33 gangs, and paramilitary extremist groups; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Since 1996, Congress has included language in every
35 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill, known as the Dickey
36 Amendment, which prohibits the Center for Disease Control's
37 appropriations dedicated for injury prevention and control from
38 being used to advocate or promote firearm control; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Assault firearms are banned in New Jersey and six other
40 states, as well as in the District of Columbia, but are legal in the
41 overwhelming majority of states; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Several municipalities in New Jersey have instituted gun
43 buyback programs, which allow citizens to turn in handguns and
44 other firearms, usually for a reward and without fear of prosecution
45 and have proven to be successful in reducing the number of
46 weapons on the street being used to commit crimes; and
47 **WHEREAS**, The Governor of New Jersey recently signed into law
48 P.L.2018, c.36, which requires a National Instant Criminal

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1 Background Check (NICS) prior to transactions involving private
2 person-to-person sales of a firearm; and

3 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has some of the most stringent firearm
4 restrictions in the nation and is listed among states that have the
5 lowest rates of firearm related deaths; and

6 **WHEREAS**, It is clear that Congress and the President should follow
7 the example set by the State of New Jersey and establish gun
8 control measures to enhance public safety and prevent further
9 deaths by firearms; and

10 **WHEREAS**, It is, therefore, fitting and proper that the United States
11 Congress and President enact legislation to require criminal
12 background checks for all gun sales, including gun show sales;
13 reinstate and strengthen the assault weapons ban; appropriate
14 funding to research smart gun technology and establish a federal
15 gun buy-back program focused on reducing the number of assault
16 firearms in circulation across the country; and repeal the Dickey
17 Amendment and fully fund the Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention research to study firearm violence; now, therefore,
19

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
21 General Assembly concurring):
22

23 1. This House respectfully memorializes Congress and the
24 President of the United States to enact legislation to require criminal
25 background checks for all gun sales, including gun show sales;
26 reinstate and strengthen the assault weapons ban; appropriate funding
27 to research smart gun technology and establish a federal gun buy-back
28 program focused on reducing the number of assault firearms in
29 circulation across the country; and repeal the Dickey Amendment and
30 fully fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research to
31 study firearm violence.
32

33 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
34 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
35 Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the
36 United States and every member of the New Jersey Congressional
37 delegation.
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STATEMENT

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42 This resolution memorializes Congress and the President of the
43 United States to enact legislation establishing certain gun control
44 measures.

45 In recent years, the United States has been witness to numerous
46 horrific and preventable firearms-related mass tragedies which have
47 heightened awareness of the danger that exists when adequate
48 protections are not utilized to ensure that only responsible gun

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6 a federal gun buy-back program focused on reducing the number of
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8 Dickey Amendment and fully fund the Centers for Disease Control
9 and Prevention research to study firearm violence.