

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates December of 3rd of each year as “International Day of Persons with Disabilities.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating December 3rd of each year as
2 “International Day of Persons with Disabilities.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Disability inclusion is an essential condition to
5 upholding human rights, sustainable development, and peace and
6 security; and
7 **WHEREAS**, People with disabilities are one of the most excluded
8 groups in our society, as these individuals are less likely to
9 access health care, education, employment and to participate in
10 the community and are among the hardest hit in this crisis in
11 terms of fatalities; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The global crisis of COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing
13 inequalities, exposing the extent of exclusion and highlighting
14 that work on disability inclusion is imperative; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The annual observance of the International Day of
16 Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations
17 (UN) General Assembly Resolution 47/3, which aims to promote
18 the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all
19 spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of
20 the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of
21 political, social, economic and cultural life; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Building on many decades of the UN’s work in the field of
23 disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
24 has further advanced the rights and well-being of persons with
25 disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
26 Sustainable Development and other international development
27 frameworks; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
29 Organization marked the International Day of Persons with
30 Disabilities this year with a week-long program under the theme:
31 “Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and
32 sustainable post COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with
33 disabilities;” and organized a global awareness raising campaign on
34 its official social media channels, focusing on the impact of the
35 COVID-19 pandemic on people living with disabilities and on the
36 immediate response to the crisis through open, inclusive and
37 innovative use of digital solutions, tools and resources; and
38 **WHEREAS**, As an early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the
39 United States, New Jersey suffered heavy losses, which revealed
40 many of the systematic disparities that continue to exist in this
41 State; therefore, it is proper and fitting that this State promotes the
42 public understanding of the inequalities that exclude people living
43 with disabilities, mobilizes support for the dignity, rights, and well-
44 being of persons with disabilities, and increases awareness of the
45 gains derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in
46 every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life; now,
47 therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

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4 1. December 3rd of each year is designated as “International
5 Day of Persons with Disabilities” in the State of New Jersey, and
6 the citizens are urged to observe the day with appropriate activities
7 and programs.

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9 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
10 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of New
11 Jersey to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

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13 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18 This joint resolution designates December of 3rd of each year as
19 “International Day of Persons with Disabilities” in New Jersey to
20 State promote the public understanding of the inequalities that
21 exclude people living with disabilities, mobilize support for the
22 dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities, and
23 increase awareness of the gains derived from the integration of
24 persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social,
25 economic and cultural life.

26 The joint resolution respectfully requests the Governor to
27 annually issue a proclamation recognizing December of 3rd as
28 “International Day of Persons with Disabilities” in New Jersey and
29 calls upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe
30 the day with appropriate activities and programs.