

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of September of each year as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of September of each
2 year as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, September has been designated by the Federal Emergency
5 Management Agency (FEMA) as “National Preparedness Month,”
6 to remind each of us that we must prepare ourselves and our
7 families now and throughout the year for disasters; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Although hurricane season usually runs from June 1
9 through November 30, hurricane and tropical storm activity peaks
10 in New Jersey from mid-August through the end of October, and by
11 taking simple steps now residents can decrease their risk of illness
12 and injury when faced with an emergency—manmade or natural;
13 and
14 **WHEREAS**, Prior to declared emergencies, every family should
15 establish a family preparedness plan in case of an emergency or
16 disaster, which should include establishing evacuation and meeting
17 locations, creating communication and financial plans, determining
18 how the family could best shelter in place, considering the medical
19 and physical needs of all family members and pets, and evaluating
20 property insurance needs; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Families should establish meeting locations where the
22 family can reunite after a disaster, one location close to home and
23 another farther away, in case they must evacuate or are unable to
24 return to the home; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Residents should establish certain evacuation plans in
26 advance of an emergency such as identifying possible evacuation
27 routes and practicing how to exit the home; identifying available
28 modes of transportation; establishing arrangements with family,
29 neighbors, friends, or local government if personal transportation is
30 unavailable; and contacting local public safety officials to make
31 them aware of transportation needs; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Residents also should establish plans to shelter in place by
33 designating at least one safe room within the home, ensuring
34 necessary supplies and emergency kits are accessible, and for those
35 who receive medical treatments or services, working with medical
36 providers to determine how to maintain care and service if they are
37 unable to leave the home for a period of time; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Families should consider the needs of everyone in the
39 household when creating an emergency preparedness plan,
40 including individuals with access and functional needs, seniors,
41 children, and pets; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Families also should develop an emergency
43 communication plan ensuring all family members have a way to
44 contact each other after an emergency or disaster; and
45 **WHEREAS**, In addition, residents should prepare finances for an
46 emergency by maintaining a small amount of cash in small
47 denominations during a disaster to purchase supplies, fuel, or food

1 and have access to personal financial, insurance, medical, and other
2 records in case of crises; and

3 **WHEREAS**, It is important for residents to evaluate property insurance
4 to avoid financial losses due to a disaster by reviewing insurance
5 policies for adequate coverage, including documentation for
6 household items, and maintaining a safe place for insurance
7 documents; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The FEMA 2020 national theme was “Disasters Don’t
9 Wait. Make Your Plan Today.”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, A well-prepared New Jersey citizenry can save lives; now,
11 therefore,

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13 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
14 *State of New Jersey:*

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16 1. The month of September of each year is designated as
17 “Emergency Preparedness Month” to raise awareness of the
18 importance of preparing ourselves and our families now and
19 throughout the year for disasters.

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21 2. The Governor respectfully is requested to issue a
22 proclamation recognizing September as “Emergency Preparedness
23 Month” and calling upon public officials and the residents of New
24 Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and
25 programs.

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27 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This joint resolution designates the month of September of each
33 year as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in New Jersey to raise
34 awareness of the importance of preparing ourselves and our families
35 now and throughout the year for emergencies and disasters.

36 Prior to declared emergencies, New Jersey residents should
37 establish a family preparedness plan in case of an emergency or
38 disaster which should include establishing evacuation and meeting
39 locations, creating communication and financial plans, determining
40 how the family could best shelter in place, and evaluating property
41 insurance needs. Preparedness plans should consider the medical
42 and physical needs of all family members and pets.