

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 129

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Designates fourth Sunday of October of each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the fourth Sunday of October of
2 each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In the game of football, the positions of quarterback,
5 running back, and wide receiver are widely considered to be among
6 the most important and exciting; and
7 **WHEREAS**, One of the most overlooked positions, however, is the tight
8 end position, a hybrid position with the characteristics and roles of
9 both an offensive lineman and a wide receiver; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Tight ends are expected to be strong enough to block
11 defensive linemen while also possessing the necessary skill and
12 athleticism to warrant a defense’s attention as a pass catcher; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Despite the multiple skillsets tight ends possess, they are
14 often undervalued by teams and fans throughout the National
15 Football League (NFL); and
16 **WHEREAS**, Tight ends are known throughout the NFL for their energy,
17 outgoing personalities, and overall fun nature towards the game of
18 football; and
19 **WHEREAS**, To celebrate and acknowledge tight ends throughout the
20 NFL, San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle, widely
21 considered to be among the best players in the NFL, created
22 “National Tight Ends Day” in 2019; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Since 2019, “National Tight Ends Day” has been
24 celebrated on the fourth Sunday of October of each year to
25 recognize tight ends and their selfless, hard work that is
26 instrumental to the success of their teams; and
27 **WHEREAS**, As the birthplace of college football, home of the New
28 York Giants and New York Jets, as well as of fans of the
29 Philadelphia Eagles, New Jersey has a unique legacy with the game
30 of football, at all levels of competition; and
31 **WHEREAS**, In addition to the State’s football legacy, New Jersey has
32 been the home of numerous talented tight ends, including former
33 NFL tight end Greg Olsen, current NFL tight ends Mike Gesicki,
34 Eric Ebron, and Anthony Firkser, and United States Senator Cory
35 Booker, who was a standout tight end in high school and at
36 Stanford University; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Therefore, it is fitting and proper for New Jersey to take
38 the lead on promoting football tight ends, given its storied history
39 with the game and the position, and designate the fourth Sunday of
40 October of each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” to recognize the
41 contributions and efforts of those players; now, therefore,
42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
44 *State of New Jersey:*
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46 1. The fourth Sunday of October of each year is designated as
47 “Football Tight Ends Day” in the State of New Jersey to recognize
48 the exceptional efforts, talent, and often overlooked contributions of

1 football tight ends and the historical significance of football and the
2 tight end position in the State.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation designating the fourth Sunday of October of each year
6 as “Football Tight Ends Day” and shall call upon the public
7 officials and citizens of this State to observe the day with
8 appropriate activities and programs.

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10 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This joint resolution designates the fourth Sunday of October of
16 each year as “Football Tight Ends Day” in New Jersey.

17 Tight ends (TEs) are hybrid position players on offense who
18 have several responsibilities. During a rushing play, they are tasked
19 with effectively blocking defensive linemen, who often range
20 anywhere from 275 and 325 pounds. During a passing play, they
21 are required to block linemen, run a receiving route, or both. The
22 various responsibilities of a TE require them to be strong, agile,
23 decisive, and athletic.

24 Despite these various responsibilities and skillsets, TEs are often
25 overlooked when it comes to fan appreciation and recognition for
26 more glamorous positions, such as quarterback or running back. To
27 provide greater recognition to TEs, San Francisco 49ers TE George
28 Kittle, widely considered one of the best players in the NFL by fans
29 and players alike, created “National Tight Ends Day” in 2019. The
30 focus of “National Tight Ends Day” is to acknowledge the
31 importance of the TE position, the often undervalued TEs in the
32 league, and celebrate the energetic and fun personalities of TEs.
33 Since its inception in 2019, “National Tight Ends Day” has been
34 embraced by teams, the NFL, fans, and multiple media outlets
35 across the country.

36 New Jersey has a rich history in the game of football. New
37 Jersey is the birthplace of college football and home to both the
38 New York Giants and New York Jets, who play their games at
39 MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. New Jersey has a rich history
40 with the tight end position as well. The Miami Dolphins Mike
41 Gesicki, Pittsburgh Steelers Eric Ebron, and Tennessee Titans
42 Anthony Firkser were all born in New Jersey and play the TE
43 position at a high level in the NFL. Former All-Pro TE and current
44 sportscaster Greg Olsen was also born in New Jersey and was a
45 highly recruited player out of Wayne Hills High School. United
46 States Senator Cory Booker was also a standout TE at Northern
47 Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan and Stanford
48 University.

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1 Given the State’s storied history with the game of football and
2 the tight end position, it is appropriate for New Jersey to take the
3 lead on promoting and acknowledging “Football Tight Ends Day”
4 on the fourth Sunday of October of each year to recognize the
5 contributions and efforts of those players.