

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 13

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of September each year as “Deaf Awareness Month” in New Jersey; designates last full week of September each year as “Deaf Awareness Week” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of September each
2 year as “Deaf Awareness Month” in New Jersey and designating
3 the last full week of September each year as “Deaf Awareness
4 Week” in New Jersey.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, Approximately one out of every 1,000 children in the
7 United States is born with profound hearing loss; and
8 **WHEREAS**, There are approximately 850,000 New Jersey residents
9 with varying degrees of hearing loss ranging from mild to profound,
10 including individuals who are born deaf and people who encounter
11 late-stage hearing loss; and
12 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to many world-class institutions and
13 programs for people who are deaf, including the Union Street
14 School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Hackensack, the Bruce
15 Street School for the Deaf in Newark, and the Marie Katzenbach
16 School for the Deaf in Trenton; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Linda Bove, famous for her role as “Linda the Librarian”
18 on Sesame Street, is a New Jersey native, having been born in
19 Garfield and educated at the Marie Katzenbach School; and
20 **WHEREAS**, There are many misconceptions about being deaf and the
21 challenges people who are deaf face in their everyday lives, which
22 can only be dispelled through greater public education and
23 awareness; and
24 **WHEREAS**, People who are deaf communicate using sign language,
25 which is a fully fledged natural language with its own morphology,
26 syntax, and structure; and
27 **WHEREAS**, People who are deaf can work in almost any job, and the
28 main barriers to employment arise from inaccessible work
29 environments rather than an inability to hear; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Much work remains to be done to promote the rights of
31 people who are deaf throughout the world, including access to
32 education, access to information and services, and the prevalence of
33 sign language; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Governments around the world have designated September
35 as “Deaf Awareness Month,” in order to commemorate the first
36 World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which took
37 place in September 1951; and
38 **WHEREAS**, It is proper and fitting for the State of New Jersey to
39 celebrate the culture, heritage, and language of people who are deaf,
40 and to increase public awareness of deaf issues by designating the
41 month of September as “Deaf Awareness Month” and the last full
42 week of September as “Deaf Awareness Week” in New Jersey;
43 now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
46 *of New Jersey:*

3

c. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of the State to observe “Deaf Awareness Month” and “Deaf Awareness Week” with appropriate activities and programs.

Governments around the world have designated September as “Deaf Awareness Month,” in order to commemorate the first World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which took place in September 1951. It is therefore proper and fitting for the State of New Jersey to celebrate the culture, heritage, and language of people who are deaf, and to increase public awareness of deaf issues by designating the month of September as “Deaf Awareness Month” and the last full week of September as “Deaf Awareness Week” in New Jersey.