

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 20

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Designates The Growing Stage Children's Theatre of New Jersey as New Jersey State children's theatre.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating The Growing Stage Children’s
2 Theatre of New Jersey as the New Jersey State children’s theatre.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Growing Stage Children’s Theatre of New Jersey is
5 a professional member theatre of the Actors’ Equity Association
6 whose mission it is to nurture the development of the performing
7 arts through education, and to create, produce, and perform
8 works that engage the entire family; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The Growing Stage has been widely recognized as a leader
10 in the State and nationally in educating and introducing children
11 and families to the performing arts; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Since 1981, The Growing Stage has developed programs
13 and inspired the State’s children to create, explore and share their
14 natural gifts of creativity and expression; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The Growing Stage actively reaches out to communities
16 underserved in the arts and introduces people to live theatre, music
17 and dance who might otherwise never have experienced the
18 performing arts; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The Growing Stage produces an homage to the State
20 entitled “Tales from the Garden” which is a journey through the
21 rich history of "The Garden State," from its original settlers to its
22 many legends, as well as some of the more unique roles New Jersey
23 has played in American History; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The theatre was formerly known as The Growing Stage
25 Theatre for Young Audiences until its 25th anniversary in 2006
26 when the theatre changed its name to The Growing Stage
27 Children’s Theatre of New Jersey; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The Growing Stage is currently housed in the historic
29 Palace Theatre in the town of Netcong, which after an illustrious
30 history as an entertainment center was in danger of losing its artistic
31 role in the community, until it was saved by The Growing Stage in
32 1994 and after countless volunteer hours and over one million
33 dollars was raised and invested into the project; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The Palace Theatre, which is home to The Growing Stage
35 Children’s Theatre of New Jersey, is now on both the national and
36 State Register of Historic Places and has reassumed its role as a
37 performing arts center in the region; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Since moving to the Palace Theatre, The Growing Stage
39 has produced over 100 shows with 1,500 performances, entertained
40 over 250,000 people, and conservatively expanded its operational
41 budget from \$30,000 a year in 1982 to \$700,000 in 2010; now,
42 therefore,
43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*
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47 1. The Growing Stage Children’s Theatre of New Jersey is
48 designated the New Jersey State children’s theatre.

1 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This resolution would designate The Growing Stage Children's
7 Theatre of New Jersey as the New Jersey State children's theatre.
8 The Growing Stage plays a unique role in the State by introducing
9 children and families to the performing arts. The theatre has had a
10 long history of enriching the community by presenting to thousands
11 of people a variety of productions. The theatre actively engages
12 communities of all economic and social backgrounds to be a part of
13 the performing arts.