

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 26

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as "Eczema Awareness Month" in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October of each year as
2 “Eczema Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Eczema is the name for a group of conditions that cause
5 the skin to become red, itchy, and inflamed; and
6 **WHEREAS**, Although the symptoms of eczema are typically mild,
7 nearly half of those with the condition experience more severe
8 symptoms, including dry, sensitive, rough, leathery, or scaly
9 patches of skin; severe itching; and blistering, weeping, peeling,
10 oozing, or crusting; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Eczema can appear anywhere on the body. The triggers
12 for an eczema flare up can vary from person to person, and may
13 include stress, sweat, obesity, soaps, detergents, and allergies to
14 dust, pollen, or food; and
15 **WHEREAS**, People with eczema may develop other conditions,
16 including hay fever and asthma, chronic itchy or scaly skin,
17 infections, other forms of dermatitis, sleep loss, depression, and
18 hypertension; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Eczema frequently first appears in childhood, but can also
20 appear at any other time of life, and childhood symptoms may
21 persist into adolescence and adulthood. The condition is often
22 characterized by long asymptomatic periods punctuated by periodic
23 flare ups; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The exact causes of eczema are not known, although
25 research suggests that the condition is linked to a combination of
26 genetic and environmental triggers; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Eczema affects over 32 million Americans, with a national
28 prevalence rate of approximately 10 percent and a prevalence rate
29 in New Jersey of over 13 percent; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Although eczema can be treated to alleviate its symptoms
31 and prevent new outbreaks, there is currently no cure for the
32 condition. Treatments include daily bathing and moisturizing
33 routines, over-the-counter remedies, prescription topical
34 medications, phototherapy, immunosuppressants, and biologic
35 drugs, as well as various natural and alternative treatments; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The American Academy of Dermatology estimates that the
37 costs for treating eczema and coexisting conditions may be as high
38 as \$3.8 billion per year. Moreover, people living with eczema
39 frequently experience an emotional and social toll, particularly
40 when others avoid contact with them out of a misconception that
41 eczema is contagious; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Additional research, educational outreach, and public
43 awareness efforts may help identify the causes of eczema, improve
44 current treatments, identify new treatments, improve access to care,
45 reduce the financial and social costs associated with eczema, and
46 alleviate the stigma felt by many who live with eczema; 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. October of each year is designated as “Eczema Awareness
5 Month” in New Jersey in order to increase public awareness about
6 eczema, generate a greater understanding of the condition, and
7 foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among
8 individuals living with eczema and the general public.

9

10 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
11 proclamation designating October as “Eczema Awareness Month”
12 in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and the citizens of
13 the State to observe the month with appropriate activities and
14 programs.

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16 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of the
17 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
18 the Secretary of the Senate to the National Eczema Association.

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20 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 This joint resolution designates October of each year as “Eczema
26 Awareness Month” in New Jersey and calls upon the Governor to
27 issue an annual proclamation and call upon public officials and the
28 citizens of the State to observe the month with appropriate activities
29 and programs.

30

31 Eczema describes a group of skin conditions that is estimated to
32 affect more than 32 million people nationwide. The goal in
33 declaring October of each year to be “Eczema Awareness Month is
34 to increase public awareness about eczema, generate a greater
35 understanding of the condition, and foster a greater sense of
36 community and shared purpose among individuals living with
eczema and the general public.