

[First Reprint]

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 38

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

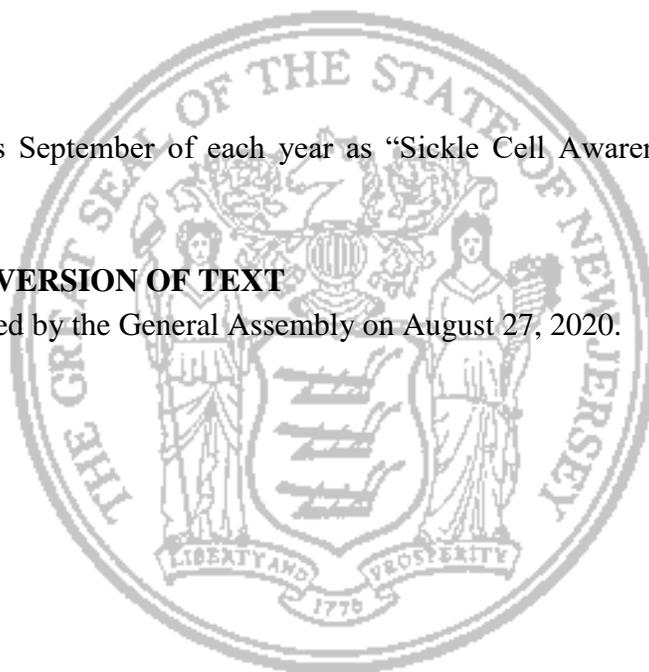
**Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Johnson,
Assemblywoman Speight and Assemblyman Chiaravalloti**

SYNOPSIS

Designates September of each year as “Sickle Cell Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on August 27, 2020.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)

- 1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September of each year as
2 “Sickle Cell Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Sickle cell disease is a group of disorders that cause red
5 blood cells to become hard and pointed, rather than soft and round,
6 which can lead to pain, organ damage, low blood count, and
7 anemia; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in
9 the United States, affecting between 90,000 and 100,000
10 Americans; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, Sickle cell disease primarily affects people of African
12 descent, but is also present in populations of Mediterranean, Middle
13 Eastern, and Asian descent; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, Sickle cell anemia is the most common, and often the most
15 severe, form of sickle cell disease; and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, The genetic trait for sickle cell disease runs in families,
17 meaning that parents can pass the trait or the disease on to their
18 children; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, Sickle cell trait is not a disease, and people who have the
20 trait may not be aware of it, but if a mother and father both carry
21 sickle cell trait, each of their children will have a one in four chance
22 of inheriting sickle cell disease; and
- 23 **WHEREAS**, All infants born in New Jersey are screened for sickle cell
24 ¹**[anemia] disease**¹, and in 2015, 40 babies were confirmed to have
25 the classic form of the disease, and an additional 36 babies were
26 confirmed to have a variant of the disease or carrier status; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, The closest treatment to a cure that is currently available
28 for sickle cell disease is a bone marrow transplant, an intense and
29 risky medical procedure that is only used in the most severe cases
30 of sickle cell disease; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Bone marrow transplantation requires a healthy donor who
32 is a genetically matched to the recipient, which can often be
33 difficult to locate, sometimes delaying the possibility of a cure for
34 some individuals with sickle cell disease; and
- 35 **WHEREAS**, Individuals with sickle cell disease often depend on costly
36 medications and blood transfusions to manage their symptoms; and
- 37 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has enacted legislation in 2011 to require
38 health insurance to cover treatment for sickle cell anemia and
39 require the Department of Health to publish information for the
40 public to learn about sickle cell anemia, which is now available on
41 the department’s website and at health care facilities and social
42 services agencies throughout the State; and
- 43 **WHEREAS**, The United States federal government first officially
44 recognized September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month in 1983,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted August 27, 2020.

1 and continues to raise public awareness of the disease in September
2 of each year; and

3 ¹WHEREAS, There are community-based organizations in this State,
4 such as the Sickle Cell Association of New Jersey, that can make a
5 greater impact in raising awareness about sickle cell disease if there
6 is a designated "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" in New Jersey; and¹

7 **WHEREAS,** There is continued need to raise public awareness in New
8 Jersey about the genetic risk factors associated with, and the
9 symptoms and treatment of, sickle cell disease; now, therefore,

10

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
12 *State of New Jersey:*

13

14 1. The month of September of each year is designated as
15 "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" in New Jersey to raise public
16 awareness of the genetic risk factors associated with, and the
17 symptoms and treatment of, sickle cell disease.

18

19 2. The Governor is requested to issue a proclamation annually
20 calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe
21 "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" with appropriate activities and
22 programs.

23

24 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.