

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 49

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates February 14 of each year as “Socks for the Homeless Day.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating February 14 of each year as  
2       “Socks for the Homeless Day.”  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
5       Development’s January 2017 Point in Time survey, 553,742 people  
6       in the United States are homeless, with chronic or long-term  
7       homelessness increasing 12 percent from 2016; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, The number of homeless individuals in New Jersey  
9       totalled over 8,500 according to the January 2017 survey, although  
10      it has been noted that the number may actually be even higher; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, The myriad challenges faced daily by homeless individuals  
12      in our society threaten their health, safety, and dignity; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Without access to shelter, employment, and basic  
14      amenities, clean socks are very frequently out of reach of those  
15      individuals, children, and families who are homeless either  
16      temporarily or on a long-term basis; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, Socks are a basic need, and help prevent frostbite,  
18      hypothermia, blisters, and ulcers, any of which if left untreated  
19      could potentially lead to the need for amputation, particularly when  
20      an individual’s health is already compromised; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, Clean, well-made socks are essential to protect the skin  
22      and soft tissue of the feet from injury, help manage the moisture  
23      that is produced by glands in the feet, and protect the feet and toes  
24      from extreme temperatures; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Shoe liners can harbor fungus and bacteria and socks help  
26      to protect the wearer from acquiring an infection of the toe or foot  
27      as a result of contact with the fungus or bacteria; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, Clothing donations to organizations that support the  
29      homeless population are much appreciated and desperately needed,  
30      but rarely include socks; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, By increasing awareness of the many challenges and  
32      dangers facing individuals who are homeless, including their  
33      ongoing need for socks, the generous citizens of the State are  
34      encouraged to make monetary or in-kind donations to charitable  
35      organizations that serve the homeless population, including those  
36      that provide much-needed socks; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate that February 14 of each year be  
38      designated as “Socks for the Homeless Day” to help meet a basic  
39      need that, although simple, can make a significant difference in the  
40      daily life of an individual who is dealing with homelessness; now,  
41      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. February 14 of each year shall be designated as “Socks for  
47        the Homeless Day” in New Jersey to raise public awareness of

**SJR49 BATEMAN**

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1 homelessness and the ongoing need for socks by children, adults,  
2 and families who are homeless.

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4 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation  
5 calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe  
6 “Socks for the Homeless Day” with appropriate activities and  
7 programs.

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9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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**STATEMENT**

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14 This joint resolution designates February 14 of each year as  
15 “Socks for the Homeless Day” in the State to raise public awareness  
16 of homelessness and the ongoing need for socks by children, adults,  
17 and families who are homeless.

18 The number of homeless individuals in New Jersey totalled over  
19 8,500 in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s  
20 January 2017 Point in Time survey. Clean socks are out of reach of  
21 those individuals, children, and families who are homeless either  
22 temporarily or on a long-term basis. Socks are a basic need, and  
23 help prevent frostbite, hypothermia, blisters, and ulcers, any of  
24 which if left untreated could potentially lead to the need for  
25 amputation, particularly when an individual’s health is already  
26 compromised. Clean, well-made socks are essential to protect the  
27 skin and soft tissue of the feet from injury, help manage the  
28 moisture that is produced by glands in the feet, and protect the feet  
29 and toes from extreme temperatures. Clothing donations to  
30 organizations that support the homeless population are much  
31 appreciated and desperately needed, but rarely include socks.

32 The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation  
33 calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe  
34 “Socks for the Homeless Day” with appropriate activities and  
35 programs.