

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 73

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates March as “Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating March as “Multiple System
2 Atrophy Awareness Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a rare progressive
5 neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a combination of
6 symptoms that affect both the automatic nervous system and
7 movement; and
8 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Institute of Neurological
9 Disorders and Stroke, MSA may affect between 15,000 and 50,000
10 Americans, including men and women of all races; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms, including problems with heart rate, progressive
12 loss of motor function and difficulties with balance, coordination,
13 gait, bladder and bowel control, speech, swallowing, and breathing,
14 advance rapidly over the course of five to 10 years once symptoms
15 initially appear; and
16 **WHEREAS**, While there are medications that treat MSA symptoms,
17 researchers continue to search for medications with fewer side
18 effects as well as methods to better manage the disease until a cure
19 is found; and
20 **WHEREAS**, A multidisciplinary approach to MSA care includes
21 physical, psychological, and financial support for patients,
22 caregivers, support groups, and MSA research foundations; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The worldwide MSA community has designated March
24 as “Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month” to increase
25 awareness of the devastating effects of MSA; now, therefore,

26
27 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
28 *State of New Jersey:*

- 29
30 1. Each year, March shall be designated as “Multiple System
31 Atrophy Awareness Month.”
32
33 2. The Governor may issue a proclamation annually recognizing
34 March as “Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month” and call
35 upon public officials and the residents of the State of New Jersey to
36 observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.
37
38 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

39
40
41 **STATEMENT**

42
43 This joint resolution designates March of each year as “Multiple
44 System Atrophy Awareness Month.”
45 Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a rare progressive
46 neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a combination of
47 symptoms that affect both the automatic nervous system and
48 movement. According to the National Institute of Neurological

1 Disorders and Stroke, MSA may affect between 15,000 and 50,000
2 Americans, including men and women of all races. Symptoms,
3 including problems with heart rate, progressive loss of motor
4 function and difficulties with balance, coordination, gait, bladder
5 and bowel control, speech, swallowing, and breathing advance
6 rapidly over the course of five to 10 years once symptoms initially
7 appear. While there are medications that treat MSA symptoms,
8 researchers continue to search for medications with fewer side
9 effects as well as methods to better manage the disease until a cure
10 is found.