

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 74

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates November of each year as “Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of November of each
2 year as “Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness
3 Month.”
4
5 **WHEREAS**, According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention (CDC) and the international World Health Organization
7 (WHO), diabetes is a chronic condition that occurs when the body
8 does not properly produce or use the hormone insulin, which
9 regulates blood sugar, and it affects more than 29 million
10 Americans; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The CDC recognizes that type 2 diabetes is the most
12 common form of diabetes, representing an estimated 90 to 95
13 percent of all diagnosed adult cases in the nation; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The American Diabetes Association has found that
15 diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States,
16 with more than seven million Americans undiagnosed and more
17 than 5,000 Americans diagnosed each day; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The World Heart Federation notes that cardiovascular
19 disease is the leading cause of death associated with diabetes and
20 results from complications associated with diabetes, such as high
21 blood sugar, high blood pressure, and obesity; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Cardiovascular disease is a term used by the American
23 Heart Association to describe problems with the heart and blood
24 vessels, including heart attack, heart failure, and stroke; and
25 **WHEREAS**, People with type 2 diabetes are at two to four times greater
26 risk for developing cardiovascular disease, and findings from a
27 recent study reveal that 52 percent of adults living with type 2
28 diabetes are unaware that they are at an increased risk; and
29 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Diabetes Education Program,
30 two out of three deaths in people with type 2 diabetes are attributed
31 to cardiovascular disease in the United States, accounting for 68
32 percent of deaths in people with type 2 diabetes; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The total health care costs for the treatment of diabetes
34 have been reported to be approximately \$245 billion annually, with
35 direct medical costs accounting for \$176 billion of the total costs in
36 2013 and cardiovascular disease accounting for 28 percent of total
37 costs; and
38 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the amount paid by Medicare for type 2
39 diabetes and cardiovascular disease totals \$1,483,620,879 for 5,481
40 beneficiaries with prevalence reaching 9.7 percent; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The African American and Hispanic/Latino populations
42 have a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes and associated
43 complications; and
44 **WHEREAS**, 13.7 percent of the African American population in New
45 Jersey’s Medicare community is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and
46 cardiovascular disease, and the amount paid by Medicare in the
47 State totals \$276,869,510 for 813 beneficiaries; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, 10.2 percent of the Hispanic population in New Jersey's
2 Medicare community is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and
3 cardiovascular disease, and the amount paid by Medicare in the
4 State totals \$50,350,480 for 157 beneficiaries; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Appropriate awareness and education about the
6 cardiovascular risks associated with diabetes can effectively
7 improve the overall outcome and reduce the financial burdens of
8 the illness; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Health and other relevant
10 partners seek to promote awareness, education, and action related to
11 diabetes and the link to cardiovascular disease; now, therefore,

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13 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of*
14 *New Jersey:*

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16 1. The month of November of each year is designated as
17 “Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Month” to raise
18 awareness of the connection between diabetes and cardiovascular
19 disease and encourage education and improved public
20 understanding with regard to the connection between diabetes and
21 cardiovascular disease.

22
23 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
24 proclamation recognizing “Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease
25 Awareness Month” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials
26 and the citizens of this State to observe the month with appropriate
27 activities and programs.

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29 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This joint resolution would establish the month of November of
35 each year as “Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness
36 Month” in New Jersey in order to raise awareness of the connection
37 between diabetes and cardiovascular disease and encourage
38 education and improved public understanding in regard to the
39 connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

40 Diabetes is a chronic condition that occurs when the body does
41 not properly produce or use the hormone insulin, which regulates
42 blood sugar. The condition affects more than 29 million Americans
43 and is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, with
44 more than seven million Americans undiagnosed and more than
45 5,000 Americans diagnosed each day. Type 2 diabetes is the most
46 common form of the diabetes, representing an estimated 90 to 95
47 percent of all diagnosed adult cases.

1 Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death associated
2 with diabetes and accounts for 68 percent of deaths in people with
3 type 2 diabetes. People with type 2 diabetes also have a much
4 higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease in the first place.
5 Yet findings from a recent study reveal that 52 percent of adults
6 living with type 2 diabetes are unaware of this increased risk.
7 There are significant costs associated with the treatment of
8 patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and Medicare
9 expenditures for this population in the State total nearly \$1.5 billion
10 for 5,481 beneficiaries. By increasing public awareness and
11 providing education about the cardiovascular risks associated with
12 diabetes, the State can improve the overall outcome of, and reduce
13 the financial burdens associated with, the illness.