

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 87

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates July 13th as “Black Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating July 13th of each year as “Black
2 Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In response to both current and historically disparate
5 treatment of Black people, a movement arose to assert that “Black
6 Lives Matter;” and
7 **WHEREAS**, The movement began as a social media hashtag in 2013, and
8 expanded into a national movement; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Freedom Fighters around the globe commemorate July 13th
10 as the day three Black women, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and
11 Opal Tometti, turned the Black Lives Matter hashtag into a global
12 movement; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The Black Lives Matter movement affirms the humanity
14 and resilience of Black Americans in the face of deadly oppression,
15 and seeks to highlight the importance of Black lives through activism
16 in a system that has historically displayed and proved that Black lives
17 do not matter; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The movement is a growing network of individuals,
19 families, and businesses invested in the deactivation of systemic
20 racism endured by all people of color; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The movement has gained international attention
22 specifically after being highlighted and acknowledged on a larger
23 scale in 2020 following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna
24 Taylor, and George Floyd – all Black lives that were taken unjustly;
25 and
26 **WHEREAS**, According to the 2017 Police Violence Report, more than
27 25 percent of the people killed in America by police were Black
28 Americans, even though they constitute approximately only 13
29 percent of the nation’s population; and
30 **WHEREAS**, This Legislature acknowledges the problems that Black
31 New Jerseyans encounter with police and other public safety
32 officials; and
33 **WHEREAS**, This Legislature recognizes the importance of the Black
34 Lives Matter movement in the United States and New Jersey’s
35 communities; and
36 **WHEREAS**, This Legislature supports the understandings and
37 affirmations that underlie the Black Lives Matter movement, and
38 seeks to address institutionalized racism; and
39 **WHEREAS**, In support of the Black Lives Matter movement, this
40 Legislature supports the coming together to proclaim a day of action,
41 affirmation, and solidarity, to be called, “Black Lives Matter Day;”
42 and
43 **WHEREAS**, The purpose of the day will be to commemorate collective,
44 Statewide efforts to recognize the message behind the movement
45 including its purpose in combatting systematic racism and violence
46 against Black people; now, therefore,

SJR87 RUIZ

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1. July 13th of each year is designated as “Black Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey to commemorate collective, Statewide efforts to recognize the movement and its purpose to combat systematic racism and violence against Black people.

9 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
10 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this
11 State to observe “Black Lives Matter Day” with appropriate activities
12 and programs.

14 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

18 This joint resolution designates July 13th of each year as “Black
19 Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey.

In response to both current and historically disparate treatment of Black people, a nationwide movement arose to assert that “Black Lives Matter.” The movement began as a social media hashtag in 2013. Freedom Fighters around the globe commemorate July 13th as the day three Black women, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometti, turned the hashtag into a global movement.

The movement has gained international attention specifically after being highlighted and acknowledged on a larger scale following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd – all Black people whose lives were taken unjustly.

The Black Lives Matter movement affirms the humanity and resilience of Black Americans in the face of deadly oppression, and seeks to highlight the importance of Black lives through activism in a system that has historically displayed and proved that Black lives do not matter.

35 According to the 2017 Police Violence Report, more than 25
36 percent of the people killed in America by police were Black
37 Americans, even though they constitute approximately only 13
38 percent of the nation's population. This Legislature acknowledges
39 the problems that Black New Jerseyans encounter with police and
40 other public safety officials. This Legislature recognizes the
41 importance of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States
42 and New Jersey's communities.

43 In support of the movement, New Jersey should come together to
44 proclaim a day of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called,
45 “Black Lives Matter Day.” The day will be set to commemorate
46 collective, Statewide efforts to recognize the movement and its
47 purpose in combatting systematic racism and violence against Black
48 people.