

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 98

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of October as “Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of October of each
2 year as “Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that as much as 20 percent of the population
5 of the United States has some type of learning disability, and one-
6 third of all children who receive special education in this country
7 have a learning disability; and
8 **WHEREAS**, A learning disability is a neurological disorder that affects
9 how information is received and processed such that those with
10 learning disabilities see, hear, and understand things differently
11 than individuals who do not have a learning disability; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Common learning disabilities include dyslexia, which
13 causes difficulty in understanding written words; dyscalculia, in
14 which a person has difficulty solving arithmetic problems and
15 understanding math concepts; and dysgraphia, which causes
16 difficulty in forming letters or writing, while various other auditory
17 and visual processing disorders can interfere with a person’s
18 understanding of language, or cause problems with visual-spatial,
19 evaluative or organizational functioning; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Most children who are diagnosed with a learning disability
21 have average or above-average intelligence but their disability
22 prevents them from demonstrating that on achievement tests; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Learning disabilities manifest themselves differently in
24 each child, vary in severity, sometimes affecting a single learning
25 task, or affecting multiple areas of learning, and tend to run in
26 families as approximately 50 percent of children who have a
27 learning disability have a parent, sibling, or extended family
28 member with a similar difficulty; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Some indicators of a possible learning disability include
30 difficulty remembering, trouble following directions, poor
31 coordination, difficulty with concepts related to time, inconsistent
32 school performance, or inappropriate responses in school or social
33 situations; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Although many children experience difficulties with
35 reading, writing, and other subjects on occasion, a child with a
36 learning disability exhibits several related signs of difficulty which
37 persist over time; and
38 **WHEREAS**, If a learning disability is not detected early, diagnosed
39 correctly, and addressed effectively, the sadness, frustration and
40 disappointment that a child may feel can contribute to emotional or
41 behavioral difficulties, including misunderstandings and increased
42 stress within the family; and
43 **WHEREAS**, The diagnosis of a learning disability is a process
44 undertaken by a team of specialists who observe the child, test, and
45 take the child’s history in order to determine whether the child has a
46 learning disability; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Learning disabilities cannot be cured, but often improve
2 when appropriate instruction, supports, assistive technology, or
3 other accommodations are used to assist the child in school; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Parents who are concerned that their child may have a
5 learning disability may request that their child’s school conduct an
6 individualized evaluation pursuant to the federal Individuals with
7 Disabilities Education Act to determine if the child’s difficulties are
8 the result of a learning disability; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Many people with learning disabilities have gone on to
10 achieve great success in their chosen fields, including Whoopi
11 Goldberg, Richard Branson, Steven Spielberg, Tommy Hilfiger,
12 Charles Schwab, and Ingvar Kamprad, the founder of IKEA, and
13 some individuals credit their success directly to their particular
14 disability or to skills they developed in trying to compensate for
15 their learning disability; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In order to raise public awareness so that individuals with
17 learning disabilities are not made to feel inadequate, lazy, or less
18 intelligent due to their being born with a neurological condition that
19 causes them to perceive and process certain types of information
20 differently than others do; now, therefore,

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
23 *State of New Jersey:*

1. The month of October of each year is designated as “Learning Disabilities Awareness Month” to increase public awareness of learning disabilities, their prevalence, the difficulties faced by those who have them, and the availability of appropriate educational resources, accommodations, instruction, and supports.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe “Learning Disabilities Awareness Month” with appropriate activities and programs.

36 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution designates the month of October of each year as “Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.” It has been estimated that as much as 20 percent of the population of the United States has some type of learning disability. Common learning disabilities include dyslexia, which causes difficulty in understanding written words; dyscalculia, in which a person has difficulty solving arithmetic problems and understanding math concepts; and dysgraphia, which causes difficulty in forming letters

1 or writing, while various other auditory and visual processing
2 disorders can interfere with a person's understanding of language,
3 or cause problems with visual-spatial, evaluative or organizational
4 functioning.

5 Learning disabilities manifest themselves differently in each
6 child, vary in severity, sometimes affecting a single learning task,
7 or affecting multiple areas of learning, and tend to run in families as
8 approximately 50 percent of children who have a learning disability
9 have a parent, sibling, or extended family member with a similar
10 problem. If a learning disability is not detected early, diagnosed
11 correctly, and addressed effectively, the sadness, frustration and
12 disappointment that a child may feel can contribute to emotional or
13 behavioral difficulties, including misunderstandings and increased
14 stress within the family.

15 Although many children experience difficulties with reading,
16 writing, and other subjects on occasion, a child with a learning
17 disability exhibits several related signs of difficulty that persist over
18 time. Learning disabilities cannot be cured, but often improve
19 when appropriate instruction, supports, assistive technology, or
20 other accommodations are used to assist the child in school. Many
21 people with learning disabilities have gone on to achieve great
22 success in their chosen fields, including Whoopi Goldberg, Richard
23 Branson, Steven Spielberg, Tommy Hilfiger, Charles Schwab, and
24 Ingvar Kamprad, the founder of IKEA, and some individuals credit
25 their success directly to their particular disability or to skills they
26 developed in trying to compensate for their learning disability.