

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 148

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates second week of September of each year as “Library Awareness Week in New Jersey.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the second week of September  
2       of each year as “Library Awareness Week in New Jersey.”

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4   **WHEREAS**, Libraries are vital institutions and dynamic centers of  
5       lifelong learning that play a unique role in ensuring the public’s  
6       right to know and empowering people from all walks of life to  
7       make informed decisions about the world around them; and

8   **WHEREAS**, Libraries serve as a critical cornerstone of a democratic  
9       society by providing access to a wealth of information that covers  
10      an impressive array of subjects and perspectives. Most libraries  
11      have enhanced this mission in recent years by offering internet  
12      access at their locations in an effort to help narrow the digital divide  
13      between those families who have internet access at home and those  
14      families with limited or no internet access; and

15   **WHEREAS**, Libraries are true community centers offering a myriad of  
16      services including, but not limited to, reading rooms, meeting  
17      spaces, and valuable programs such as children’s storytelling hours,  
18      tutoring, English as a Second Language instruction, and book clubs;  
19      and

20   **WHEREAS**, Library professionals work with dedication and  
21      determination to connect library users with the information they  
22      need, whether it be in helping a child choose his first book, aiding a  
23      citizen locate needed tax forms, or assisting a researcher to track  
24      down a hard-to-find text; and

25   **WHEREAS**, Libraries in the State of New Jersey and around the nation  
26      play a key role in the national discourse on intellectual freedom and  
27      equity of access to information, which are vital to a democratic  
28      society; and

29   **WHEREAS**, It is both fitting and appropriate to foster public pride and  
30      support of the State’s libraries, promote awareness and use of their  
31      valuable resources, and recognize the many contributions of library  
32      professionals to our communities; now, therefore,

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34        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
35        *State of New Jersey:*

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37        1. The second week of September of each year is designated as  
38        “Library Awareness Week in New Jersey.”

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40        2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation  
41        recognizing the second week of September of each year as “Library  
42        Awareness Week in New Jersey” and calling upon public officials  
43        and the residents of the State of New Jersey to observe the week  
44        with appropriate activities and programs that recognize the critical  
45        role that libraries and their dedicated staff play in a democratic  
46        society.

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48        3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This Joint Resolution designates the second week of September of each year as “Library Awareness Week in New Jersey.”

Libraries are critical institutions and dynamic centers of lifelong learning that play a unique role in ensuring the public’s right to know and empowering people from all walks of life to make informed decisions about the world around them. Libraries also play a key role in the national discourse on intellectual freedom and equity of access to information and are the cornerstone of our democracy. It is therefore appropriate to foster public pride and support of the State’s libraries, promote awareness and use of their valuable resources, and recognize the many contributions of library professionals by establishing a “Library Awareness Week in New Jersey.”