

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 37

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.**

**District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates September 15th of each year as “Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Day” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**SJR37 KYRILLOS**

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September 15th of every year as  
2 “Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Day” in New Jersey.

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome (RSDS), also  
5 known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a debilitating and  
6 progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning  
7 pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating,  
8 tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch; and

9 **WHEREAS**, RSDS is thought to be a nerve disorder that generally  
10 occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury. The syndrome  
11 usually develops in an injured limb, such as a broken leg, or  
12 following surgery; however, many cases of RSDS involve only a  
13 minor injury, such as a sprain. In some cases, no precipitating  
14 event can be identified; and

15 **WHEREAS**, While the exact underlying causes of RSDS are unknown,  
16 the syndrome is thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the  
17 sympathetic nervous system; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the  
19 nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones and, if untreated,  
20 can result in permanent deformity and chronic pain; and

21 **WHEREAS**, RSDS is often misdiagnosed because the condition is  
22 either unknown or is poorly understood. The prognosis for patients  
23 suffering from RSDS is generally much better when the condition is  
24 identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three  
25 months of identifying the first symptoms, as recognition and  
26 prompt treatment of RSDS provides the greatest opportunity for  
27 recovery; and

28 **WHEREAS**, If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly spread to  
29 the entire limb, and changes in bone and muscle may become  
30 irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the muscles,  
31 and eventual permanent disability of patients; and

32 **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate that all citizens of this State be better  
33 informed about reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome and the  
34 impact it has on the lives of those who suffer with the condition;  
35 now, therefore,

36  
37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
38 *State of New Jersey:*

39  
40 1. September 15th of each year is designated as “Reflex  
41 Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Day” in the State of New Jersey  
42 to promote awareness about this severely painful and debilitating  
43 condition.

44  
45 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling  
46 upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the  
47 day with appropriate activities and programs, which promote  
48 awareness of reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome.

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1       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This joint resolution designates September 15th of each year as  
7 “Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Day” to promote  
8 awareness about this severely painful and debilitating condition and  
9 the impact it has on the lives of those who suffer with the condition.

10       The incidence of RSDS is 1% to 2% after all fractures, 2% to 4%  
11 after fractures with peripheral nerve injuries, and up to 35% after a  
12 Colles fracture (a fracture of the distal radius bone).