

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 64

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 27, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Camden)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Declares May 9 through May 15, 2010 "Tinnitus Awareness Week."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR64 BEACH, VITALE

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- 1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** declaring the week of May 9 through May
2 15, 2010 as "Tinnitus Awareness Week."
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- 4 **WHEREAS**, Tinnitus, often defined as "ringing in the ears," causes a
5 person to hear ringing, buzzing, or a variety of other sounds without
6 an external cause, and to have a heightened sensitivity to sound;
7 tinnitus can be a debilitating condition, reducing the quality of life
8 for those chronically affected; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, Tinnitus is most often the result of extreme noise exposure
10 from either a single impulse noise or the accumulation of noise
11 exposure, but may also be caused by conditions such as an ear
12 infection, the use of certain drugs, a blocked auditory tube or canal,
13 or a head injury; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, As many as 50 million Americans experience tinnitus to
15 some degree, of those, approximately 12 million have chronic
16 tinnitus and seek medical attention for their condition, and nearly
17 two million are debilitated by tinnitus; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety
19 and Health, the maximum allowable noise exposure is 85 dBA for
20 eight hours and, even at that level, an individual can sustain hearing
21 damage; even though there are recommended maximum allowable
22 exposure times, cumulative noise exposure over several years, even
23 at safe levels, can cause tinnitus; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, Americans live in an age of amplified sound where
25 many everyday noise sources produce decibel levels that can be
26 hazardous to our hearing, resulting in tinnitus or other types of
27 hearing loss; some everyday sounds that exceed the allowable noise
28 exposure level of 85 dBA include those from a blow dryer, subway
29 train, power lawn mower, chain saw, jackhammer, screaming child,
30 rock concert, thunderclap, jet engine, and an MP3 player; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, The Army is the only branch of the military that requires
32 earplugs as part of a recruit's uniform, but many types of military
33 equipment exceed the 85 dBA limit, including an Apache
34 helicopter, a nine millimeter pistol, and a grenade; as a result, in
35 2010, nearly 619,000 American veterans will suffer from military
36 service-related tinnitus; and
- 37 **WHEREAS**, Tinnitus is the number one service-related disability
38 suffered by military personnel returning from the current conflicts
39 in Iraq and Afghanistan; by 2010, the United States Department of
40 Veterans Affairs will be paying nearly \$1 billion in tinnitus
41 disability compensation to this country's veterans; and
- 42 **WHEREAS**, Even with a combination of public and private funding,
43 only four million dollars is spent on tinnitus research in the United
44 States, far less than what is spent on research for most other
45 medical conditions; and
- 46 **WHEREAS**, Current therapies used to treat tinnitus cannot permanently
47 rid a patient of the condition, and not all tinnitus patients benefit
48 from the different treatments currently available, but new,

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1 sophisticated brain-imaging technologies have allowed researchers
2 to identify the areas of the brain that involve tinnitus, and have led
3 scientists to study tinnitus on several new fronts; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Tinnitus is a condition that can affect anyone, young or
5 old, and increased public awareness of the condition's debilitating
6 effects should be promoted to encourage both public and private
7 health care organizations to provide funding for continuing
8 research on ways to alleviate the symptoms of tinnitus, and to find a
9 cure for this incapacitating condition; now, therefore,

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11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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13 1. This House hereby declares the week of May 9 through May
14 15, 2010 as "Tinnitus Awareness Week" in the State of New Jersey
15 to promote public awareness about the debilitating effects of
16 tinnitus in order to encourage both public and private health care
17 organizations to provide funding for continuing research on ways to
18 alleviate the symptoms of tinnitus, and to find a cure for this
19 incapacitating condition.

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21 2. The Governor is requested to issue a proclamation calling
22 upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe
23 "Tinnitus Awareness Week" with appropriate activities and
24 programs.

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26 3. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the
27 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate,
28 shall be transmitted to the American Tinnitus Association.

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STATEMENT

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33 This resolution declares the week of May 9 through May 15,
34 2010 as "Tinnitus Awareness Week" in the State of New Jersey to
35 promote public awareness about the debilitating effects of tinnitus
36 in order to encourage both public and private health care
37 organizations to provide funding for continuing research on ways to
38 alleviate the symptoms of tinnitus, and to find a cure for this
39 incapacitating condition.