

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 180**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2013

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman SHEILA Y. OLIVER

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman LINDA STENDER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress of United States to enact legislation enforcing stricter firearms control measures.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress and the
2 President of the United States to enact legislation enforcing
3 stricter firearms control measures.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, With all due respect to the Second Amendment right to
6 bear arms and the United States Supreme Court decisions in District
7 of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) and McDonald v. City
8 of Chicago, 561 U.S. 3025 (2010), in recent years the United States
9 has been witness to several horrific and preventable firearms related
10 mass tragedies which have heightened awareness of the danger that
11 exists when adequate protections are not utilized to ensure that only
12 responsible gun owners have access to firearms; and
13 **WHEREAS**, More Americans have been killed by guns since 1968 than
14 have died in all the United States wars combined, beginning with
15 the Revolutionary War; and
16 **WHEREAS**, In 2007, a student killed 33 people and injured 25 more
17 during a shooting spree on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic
18 University; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Since 2010, there have been 57 deaths and 35 additional
20 injuries caused by firearms in schools throughout the nation; and
21 **WHEREAS**, In 2011, a lone shooter killed six people, including a nine-
22 year old child, and injured thirteen others, including former
23 Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, in a supermarket parking lot
24 outside Tucson, Arizona; and
25 **WHEREAS**, In 2012 alone, there were seven mass shootings in
26 America, resulting in a total of 72 deaths and 68 other injuries; and
27 **WHEREAS**, In almost all of these mass shootings, there were prior
28 signs of possible mental illness; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The firearms used in these mass shootings had been legally
30 obtained in all but one case; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Each of the gunmen in these attacks carried at least one
32 semiautomatic handgun; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The shooters of these seven attacks were armed with a
34 total of eight semiautomatic handguns, two assault weapons, and
35 two shotguns; and
36 **WHEREAS**, On Friday, July 20, 2012, a man opened gunfire on a
37 packed movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, murdering 12 people
38 and injuring 58 others; and
39 **WHEREAS**, On December 14, 2012, 20 school children and six adults
40 were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown,
41 Connecticut by an armed gunman in an unimaginable tragedy; and
42 **WHEREAS**, These incidents have led parents and educators to seek
43 answers regarding how to best protect our innocent children from
44 such atrocities at school; and
45 **WHEREAS**, College presidents are calling for stricter gun safety, noting
46 that in 2010, 2,694 young people were killed by gunfire, 1,773 were
47 victims of homicide, and 67 were elementary school children; and

ACR180 GREENWALD, OLIVER

3

1 **WHEREAS**, Congress allowed the 1994 federal ban on the sale of semi-
2 automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding
3 devices to expire in 2004 even though these weapons cause
4 devastating wounds and penetrate body armor, are the "weapon of
5 choice" for drug traffickers, weapons traffickers, gangs, and
6 paramilitary extremist groups, and have led to the deaths of one in
7 five police officers killed in the line of duty between 1998 and
8 2001; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Weaknesses in this nation's gun laws have resulted in a
10 clear and imminent danger to its citizens; and

11 **WHEREAS**, President Obama announced a package of new gun control
12 initiatives on January 16, 2013, including 23 executive actions and
13 a set of proposed Congressional actions; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The proposed legislative package would require criminal
15 background checks for all gun sales, including gun show sales,
16 reinstate and strengthen the assault weapons ban, limit ammunition
17 magazines, ban armor-piercing bullets for civilians, require federal
18 law enforcement agencies to trace guns recovered in criminal
19 investigations, and enhance mental health programs for the youth of
20 America, among other measures; and

21 **WHEREAS**, It is clear that these measures proposed by President
22 Obama are necessary in order to restore the public safety and
23 prevent further deaths by firearms; and

24 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore fitting and proper that the United States
25 Congress and President act quickly to protect our nation's children
26 and other citizens from further danger of gun violence; now
27 therefore,
28

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
30 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*
31

32 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully
33 memorializes Congress and the President of the United States to
34 enact legislation enforcing stricter firearms control measures as set
35 forth by President Obama on January 16, 2013, such as requiring
36 criminal background checks for all gun sales, including gun show
37 sales, reinstating and strengthening the assault weapon ban, limiting
38 ammunition magazines, banning armor-piercing bullets for
39 civilians, requiring federal law enforcement agencies to trace guns
40 recovered in criminal investigations, and enhancing mental health
41 programs for the youth of America.
42

43 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
44 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
45 and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the
46 General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice
47 President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the
48 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of

1 Representatives, the chairs of the appropriate standing committees
2 of Congress, and every member of the New Jersey Congressional
3 delegation.

4

5

6

STATEMENT

7

8 This resolution would memorialize Congress and the President of
9 the United States to enact legislation enforcing stricter firearms
10 control measures as set forth by President Obama on January 16,
11 2013. Such measures include requiring criminal background checks
12 for gun show sales, reinstating and strengthening the assault
13 weapons ban, limiting ammunition magazines, banning armor-
14 piercing bullets for civilians, requiring federal law enforcement
15 agencies to trace guns recovered in criminal investigations, and
16 enhancing mental health programs for the youth of America.

17 The resolution cites overwhelming evidence of the need for
18 stricter gun control measures, including statistics of recent school
19 and other mass shootings.