

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 93

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TIMOTHY J. EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

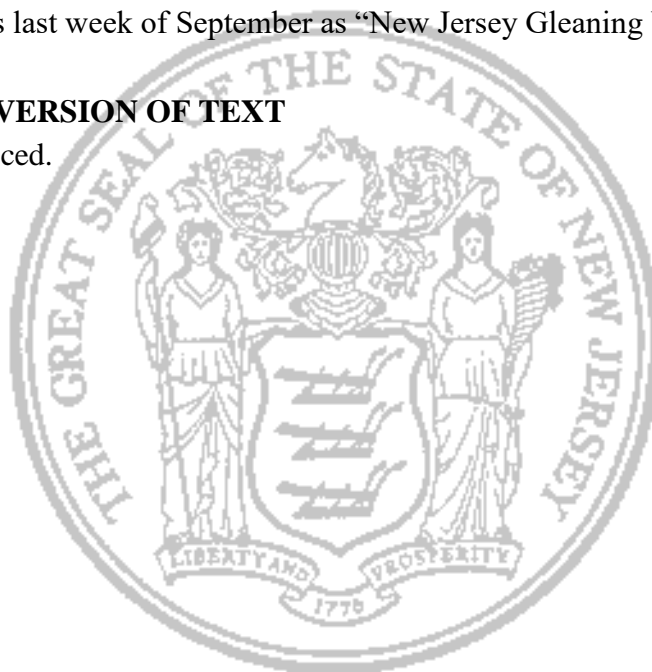
Assemblywomen Pinkin and Lampitt

SYNOPSIS

Designates last week of September as "New Jersey Gleaning Week."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2015)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the last week of September as
2 “New Jersey Gleaning Week.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Each year, approximately 40 percent of the United States
5 food supply goes uneaten due to losses at the farm, retail, and
6 consumer levels; and
7 **WHEREAS**, This wasted food accounts for 25 percent of all freshwater
8 used in the country, four percent of all oil consumed, \$165 billion
9 in lost retail sales, and \$750 million in disposal costs; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The vast majority of wasted food ends up in landfills,
11 where organic matter accounts for 16 percent of all methane gas
12 emissions in the United States; and
13 **WHEREAS**, At the same time, over 14 percent of U.S. households
14 struggle to put enough food on the table, leaving 49 million
15 Americans, including 16 million children, at risk of going hungry;
16 and
17 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, food insecurity affects 1.15 million people,
18 including 375,000 children, many of whom do not qualify for
19 federal nutrition programs and must rely on charitable food
20 assistance; and
21 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that the food saved by reducing losses by
22 just 15 percent could feed more than 25 million Americans each
23 year; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Increasing the efficiency of our food system, so that all
25 Americans have access to fresh, healthy food, is imperative and
26 requires a collaborative effort between governments, businesses,
27 nonprofit organizations, and consumers; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Gleaning is the process of collecting excess fresh foods
29 from farms, gardens, farmers markets, grocers, restaurants, state
30 and county fairs, or other sources in order to provide it to those in
31 need; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Gleaning prevents the unnecessary wasting of quality food,
33 and gives low-income populations access to fresh, nutritious foods
34 that are not always available in their communities; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Gleaning also provides resources to nonprofit agencies,
36 many of whom have shrinking staff capacity and budgets due to the
37 economic downturn, and builds good relations between community
38 members and farmers; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Individuals can get involved in gleaning by connecting
40 with various nonprofit organizations, such as the New Jersey
41 Agricultural Society’s Farmers Against Hunger program, which
42 sponsors gleanings across the State between September and
43 November; and
44 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey and its citizens have a long history of
45 supporting gleaning efforts, so it is altogether fitting and proper that
46 the State establish “New Jersey Gleaning Week” during the last
47 week of September; now, therefore,
48

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

3

4 1. The last full week in September each year is designated as
5 “New Jersey Gleaning Week,” in order to promote awareness of
6 food insecurity and food waste, and to encourage residents to
7 participate in gleaning to provide fresh, healthy food to those in
8 need.

9

10 2. The Governor may annually issue a proclamation calling
11 upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe “New
12 Jersey Gleaning Week” with appropriate activities and programs.

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14 3. The Department of Agriculture shall take appropriate
15 measures each year to publicize “New Jersey Gleaning Week.”

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17 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

21

22 This joint resolution designates the last full week of September
23 each year as “New Jersey Gleaning Week.”

24 Each year, approximately 40 percent of the United States food
25 supply goes uneaten due to losses at the farm, retail, and consumer
26 levels. This wasted food costs Americans \$165 billion in retail
27 sales, and uses up valuable water and energy resources.
28 Meanwhile, 49 million Americans, including 16 million children,
29 are at risk of going hungry. In New Jersey, 1.15 million people,
30 including 375,000 children, are affected by food insecurity.
31 Increasing the efficiency of our food system, so that all Americans
32 have access to fresh, healthy food, is imperative and requires a
33 collaborative effort between governments, businesses, nonprofit
34 organizations, and consumers.

35 Gleaning is the process of collecting excess fresh foods from
36 farms, gardens, farmers markets, grocers, restaurants, state and
37 county fairs, or other sources in order to provide it to those in need.
38 Gleaning prevents food waste, gives low income populations access
39 to fresh, healthy foods, provides valuable resources to nonprofit
40 agencies, and builds good relations between community members
41 and farmers. Individuals can get involved in gleaning by
42 connecting with various nonprofit organizations, such as the New
43 Jersey Agricultural Society’s Farmers Against Hunger program,
44 which sponsors gleanings across the State between September and
45 November.

46 This joint resolution would direct the governor to issue an annual
47 proclamation, and the Department of Agriculture to take appropriate
48 measures to publicize “New Jersey Gleaning Week.”