

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 111

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 21, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

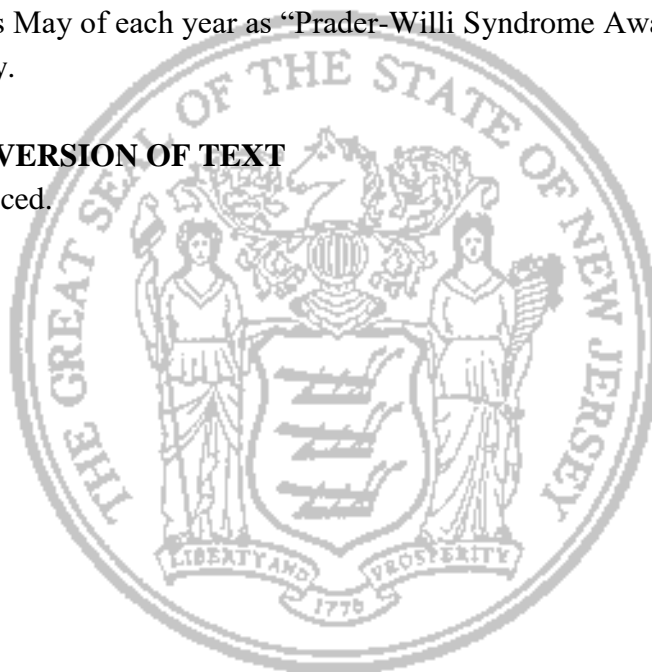
Assemblyman Peterson and Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2017)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating May as “Prader-
2 Willi Syndrome Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a complex genetic
5 disorder affecting appetite, growth, metabolism, cognitive function,
6 and behavior; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms of PWS typically include low muscle tone,
8 short stature, incomplete sexual development, cognitive disabilities,
9 behavioral problems, and chronic feelings of insatiable hunger and
10 slowed metabolism leading to excessive eating and life-threatening
11 obesity; and

12 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that one in 12,000 to 15,000 people have
13 PWS; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Although considered a rare disorder, PWS is one of the
15 most common conditions seen in genetic clinics and the most
16 common cause of morbid obesity in children; and

17 **WHEREAS**, PWS is often misdiagnosed due to the medical
18 community's unfamiliarity with the syndrome. It is sometimes
19 misdiagnosed as Down syndrome because of the relative frequency
20 of Down syndrome compared to PWS; and

21 **WHEREAS**, PWS is found in both men and women and is attributed to
22 a spontaneous genetic error that occurs on chromosome 15, for
23 unknown reasons, at or near the time of conception; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In a small percentage of cases of PWS, a genetic mutation
25 that does not affect the parents can be passed onto a child, and in
26 these families, more than one child may be affected; and

27 **WHEREAS**, PWS may also be acquired after birth if the hypothalamus
28 portion of the brain becomes damaged through injury or surgery;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, PWS has no cure. However, early diagnosis and treatment
31 may help prevent or reduce the number of challenges that PWS
32 sufferers may experience, and which may be more of a problem if
33 diagnosis or treatment is delayed; and

34 **WHEREAS**, It is important to increase the public's awareness about
35 PWS, its devastating impact on the lives of men, women, and
36 children who suffer from the syndrome, and the fact that with early
37 diagnosis and treatment, the effects of the syndrome can be
38 reduced; now, therefore,

39

40 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the
41 State of New Jersey:

42

43 1. May of each year is designated as "Prader-Willi Syndrome
44 Awareness Month" in New Jersey in order to increase the public's
45 awareness about PWS, its devastating impact on the lives of men,
46 women, and children who suffer from the syndrome, and the fact
47 that with early diagnosis and treatment, the effects of the syndrome
48 can be reduced.

