

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 172

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

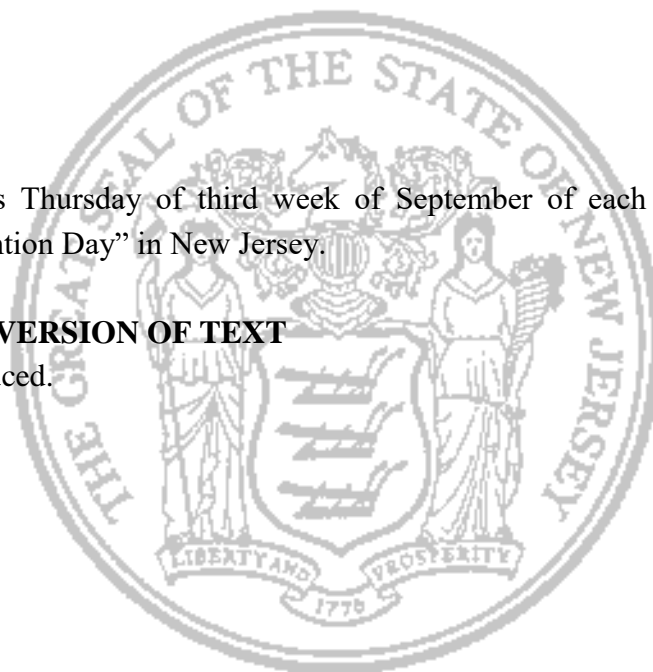
**Assemblyman DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Verrelli, Assemblywomen Swain, Murphy, Assemblymen Wirths, Space, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblymen Coughlin, Freiman, Senators Madden, Addiego, Cunningham, Pou and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates Thursday of third week of September of each year as “Food Waste Prevention Day” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2019)

1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the Thursday of the third week  
2       of September of each year as “Food Waste Prevention Day” in  
3       New Jersey.

4  
5    **WHEREAS**, Food waste is a widespread epidemic that has substantial  
6       social, financial, and environmental repercussions; and

7    **WHEREAS**, Federal and state laws aimed at encouraging and  
8       incentivizing food donations from both businesses and individuals  
9       have been implemented to prevent food waste; and

10   **WHEREAS**, While many prospective business donors are hesitant to  
11       donate excess food due to the threat of liability for food related  
12       injuries or deaths, the federal “Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food  
13       Donation Act” provides robust civil and criminal protections to all  
14       people and businesses who, in good faith, donate wholesome food  
15       to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals; and

16   **WHEREAS**, All food donors and nonprofit organizations receiving food  
17       donations are given similar civil and criminal protections against  
18       any liability associated with their food donations under New  
19       Jersey’s “Food Bank Good Samaritan Act”; and

20   **WHEREAS**, The federal government also offers businesses an enhanced  
21       tax deduction for food donations made to public charities and other  
22       qualifying nonprofit organizations; and

23   **WHEREAS**, Despite various efforts to curb food waste, according to the  
24       United States Environmental Protection Agency, as much as 40  
25       percent, or 160 billion pounds, of all food produced in the United  
26       States each year is never eaten; and

27   **WHEREAS**, While Americans dispose of millions of tons of food, the  
28       United States Department of Agriculture indicates that 12.3 percent  
29       of households in 2016 did not have consistent access to enough  
30       food for an active, healthy life; and

31   **WHEREAS**, Coinciding with a nationwide objective set out by the  
32       United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental  
33       Protection Agency, the State of New Jersey has established a goal  
34       to reduce the amount of food waste annually generated in the State  
35       by 50 percent by the year 2030; and

36   **WHEREAS**, Households can reduce food waste in a variety of ways,  
37       including buying no more groceries than are expected to be used for  
38       meals, preparing perishable foods soon after shopping, storing fruits  
39       and vegetables for maximum freshness, and being mindful of old  
40       ingredients and leftovers that need to be used; and

41   **WHEREAS**, Reducing food waste helps businesses and consumers save  
42       money, lessens methane emissions from landfills, conserves energy  
43       and resources for future generations, and provides support to those  
44       in the community who do not have enough to eat; now, therefore,

45  
46       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
47       State of New Jersey:

1 1. The Thursday of the third week of September of each year  
2 shall be designated as "Food Waste Prevention Day" in New Jersey  
3 to bring awareness to the issue of food waste and to foster  
4 partnerships between consumers and businesses in order to create  
5 and share impactful solutions to prevent food waste.

6  
7 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
8 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this  
9 State to observe "Food Waste Prevention Day" with appropriate  
10 activities and programs.

11  
12 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### 13 14 15 STATEMENT

16  
17 This joint resolution designates the Thursday of the third week of  
18 September of each year as "Food Waste Prevention Day" in New  
19 Jersey. "Food Waste Prevention Day" aims to fight the epidemic of  
20 food waste by bringing awareness to the issue and fostering  
21 partnerships between individuals and businesses in order to create  
22 and share solutions to prevent food waste.

23 Measures have been implemented at both the federal level and in  
24 New Jersey to encourage and incentivize food donations as a way to  
25 reduce food waste. Currently, many businesses are hesitant to  
26 donate excess food because of the threat of liability for food related  
27 injuries or deaths. The federal "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food  
28 Donation Act," however, absolves those who donate food in good  
29 faith to nonprofit organizations from civil and criminal liability  
30 related to such donations. New Jersey provides similar protections  
31 in its "Food Bank Good Samaritan Act." Businesses of all kinds can  
32 also take advantage of an enhanced federal tax deduction for food  
33 donations made to qualifying charities and nonprofit organizations.

34 Despite various efforts to address the food waste epidemic, each  
35 year, approximately 160 billion pounds of food, or up to 40 percent  
36 of the food produced in the United States annually, end up as food  
37 waste. Furthermore, the United States Department of Agriculture  
38 estimates that 12.3 percent of households in 2016 lacked consistent  
39 access to adequate food.

40 Coinciding with similar efforts on the federal level, New Jersey  
41 has set a goal of reducing the amount of food waste annually  
42 generated in the State by 50 percent by the year 2030. Households  
43 can engage in a number of techniques to help achieve this goal.  
44 Educating citizens and businesses on the issue of food waste by  
45 recognizing "Food Waste Prevention Day" will help New Jersey  
46 and the United States reduce the financial, environmental, and  
47 social impacts of food waste.