

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 200

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Land, Milam, Assemblywomen
Timberlake, N.Munoz and Quijano**

SYNOPSIS

Designates third Sunday of September of each year as “Puerto Rico Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2019)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the third Sunday of September
2 of each year as “Puerto Rico Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and their
5 culture have influenced the United States for over a century, from
6 their participation in the United States government to their
7 significant contributions to the arts and humanities; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Christopher Columbus arrived in Puerto Rico in 1493
9 during his second voyage to the “New World;” and
10 **WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony until it was ceded to the
11 United States in 1898, following the Spanish-American War; and
12 **WHEREAS**, On July 25, 1952, Puerto Rico ratified the “Constitution of
13 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,” which acknowledged the
14 autonomy of Puerto Rico within its union with the United States of
15 America; and
16 **WHEREAS**, According to the Pew Research Center, over five million
17 Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin reside in the continental United
18 States, specifically the northeastern United States and the state of
19 Florida; and
20 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, specifically in the city of Newark, a great
21 influx of Puerto Ricans arrived throughout the 20th Century and
22 settled in the North Ward section of the city; and
23 **WHEREAS**, According to a 2014 study by the Center for Puerto Rican
24 Studies, the Puerto Rican population in New Jersey was 468,200,
25 which was the third largest Puerto Rican population in the
26 continental United States; and
27 **WHEREAS**, According to the United States Census Bureau, Puerto
28 Ricans account for 27.1 percent of the Latino population in New
29 Jersey, the largest of any Latino group in the State; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Puerto Ricans have made significant contributions to the
31 arts and humanities, including the introduction of Latin Pop music
32 to the United States mainstream by such music artists as Ricky
33 Martin and the humanitarian efforts of National Baseball Hall of
34 Famer Roberto Clemente; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Puerto Ricans have risen to the highest positions in the
36 United States government, including Supreme Court Justice Sonia
37 Sotomayor and former Surgeon General of the United States
38 Antonia Novello; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Puerto Ricans have fought in every major war of the
40 United States since World War I and have exhibited outstanding
41 heroism, leading many Puerto Ricans to be recognized with
42 Congressional Medals of Honor; and
43 **WHEREAS**, In Newark, the “Puerto Rican Day Parade,” which
44 celebrates Puerto Rican heritage and culture through the exhibition
45 of art, music, literature, education, and civic engagement, has been
46 held on the third Sunday of September every year since 1962; and
47 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that the third Sunday of
48 September of each year be designated as “Puerto Rico Day” in

1 the State of New Jersey to celebrate the Puerto Rican people and
2 to acknowledge their historical and cultural significance to this
3 State and the United States of America; now, therefore,

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
6 *State of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. The third Sunday of September of each year is designated as
9 “Puerto Rico Day” in the State of New Jersey to celebrate the
10 Puerto Rican people, language, and culture and to acknowledge
11 their significance to the State of New Jersey and the United States
12 of America.

13
14 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
15 proclamation and call upon public officials, and all citizens of this
16 State, to observe “Puerto Rico Day” with appropriate programs and
17 activities.

18
19 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
20

21
22 STATEMENT
23

24 This resolution designates the third Sunday of September of each
25 year as “Puerto Rico Day” in New Jersey to celebrate the Puerto
26 Rican people, language, and culture and to acknowledge their
27 significance to this State and the United States of America.

28 Christopher Columbus arrived in Puerto Rico in 1493 during his
29 second voyage to the “New World.” Puerto Rico was a Spanish
30 Colony until it was ceded to the United States in 1898, following
31 the Spanish-American War. On July 25, 1952, Puerto Rico ratified
32 the “Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;” which
33 acknowledged the autonomy of Puerto Rico within its union with
34 the United States of America.

35 According to the Pew Research Center, over five million
36 Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin reside in the continental United
37 States. In New Jersey, specifically in the city of Newark, a great
38 influx of Puerto Ricans arrived throughout the 20th Century and
39 settled in the North Ward section of the city. According to a 2014
40 study by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, the Puerto Rican
41 population in New Jersey was 468,200, which was the third largest
42 Puerto Rican population in the United States. According to the
43 United States Census Bureau, Puerto Ricans account for 27.1
44 percent of the Latino population in New Jersey, the largest of any
45 Latino group in the State.

46 Puerto Ricans have made significant contributions to the arts and
47 humanities, including the introduction of Latin Pop music to the
48 United States mainstream by such music artists as Ricky Martin and

1 the humanitarian efforts of Baseball Hall of Famer Roberto
2 Clemente. In addition, Puerto Ricans have risen to the highest
3 positions in the United States government, including Supreme Court
4 Justice Sonia Sotomayor and former Surgeon General of the United
5 States Antonia Novello. Puerto Ricans have fought in every major
6 war of the United States since World War I and have exhibited
7 outstanding heroism, leading many Puerto Ricans to be recognized
8 with Congressional Medals of Honor.

9 Events which celebrate Puerto Rican heritage and culture
10 through the exhibition of art, music, literature, education, and civic
11 engagement have taken place throughout New Jersey, including in
12 Trenton, Paterson, and Newark. In Newark, the “Puerto Rican Day
13 Parade” has been held on the third Sunday of September every year
14 since 1962.