

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 104, *approved May 10, 2019*
Senate, No. 1729 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT designating *Streptomyces griseus* as the New Jersey State
2 Microbe¹**[,]** and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the
3 Revised Statutes.
4
5 WHEREAS, *Streptomyces griseus* is a soil-based microorganism that
6 was first discovered in ¹New Jersey in¹ 1916 by Dr. Selman
7 Waksman and Dr. Roland Curtis; and
8 WHEREAS, Soon after its discovery, the microbe drew international
9 acclaim for its groundbreaking use as an antibiotic; and
10 WHEREAS, In 1943, a research team from Rutgers University, led by
11 ¹**[(Dr. Albert Schatz and)]**¹ Dr. ¹**[(Selman)]**¹ Waksman ¹with Albert
12 Schatz and Elizabeth Bugie¹, used *Streptomyces griseus* to create
13 streptomycin, the world’s first antibiotic for tuberculosis; and
14 WHEREAS, The original discovery paper for streptomycin, entitled
15 “Streptomycin, a Substance Exhibiting Antibiotic Activity Against
16 Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria,” was co-authored by
17 Dr. Waksman, Dr. Schatz, and Elizabeth Bugie, and published in
18 the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and
19 Medicine; and
20 WHEREAS, After clinical trials showed that streptomycin cured ailing
21 tuberculosis patients, Merck & Company, a New Jersey-based
22 pharmaceutical company, quickly made the drug available to the
23 public; and
24 WHEREAS, Prior to this discovery, tuberculosis was one of the
25 deadliest diseases in human history and the second leading cause of
26 death in the United States; and
27 WHEREAS, Within ¹**[(ten)]** 10¹ years of streptomycin’s release,
28 tuberculosis mortality rates in the U.S. fell to a historic low, with
29 only 9.1 tuberculosis-related deaths per 100,000 people in 1955
30 compared to the rate of 194 deaths per 100,000 people in 1900; and
31 WHEREAS, According to a June 1947 *New York Times* article,
32 streptomycin had “become one of the two wonder drugs of
33 medicine” and offered the “promise to save more lives than were
34 lost in both World Wars”; and
35 WHEREAS, Dr. ¹**[(Selman)]**¹ Waksman was later awarded a Nobel
36 Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1952 for his work in
37 discovering *Streptomyces griseus*, creating streptomycin, and
38 curing tuberculosis; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[(thus)]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted September 17, 2018.

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25 _____
26
27 Designates *Streptomyces griseus* as New Jersey State Microbe.