

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 230

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson,

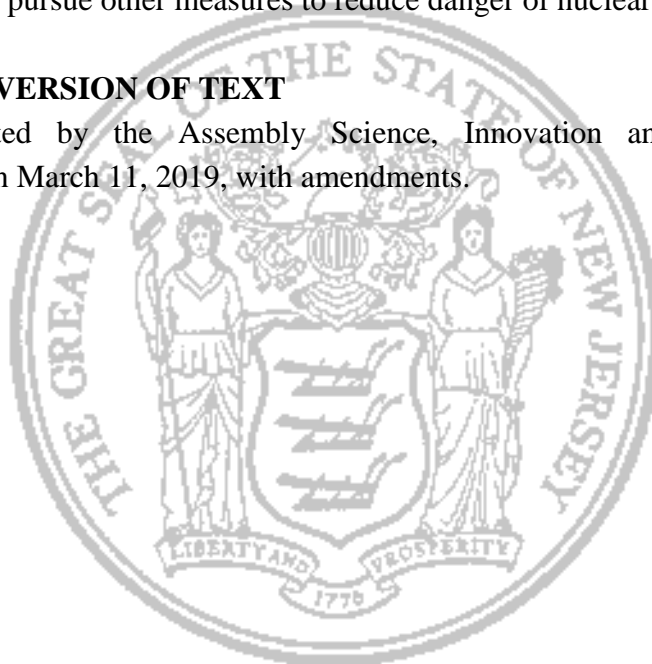
Assemblyman Conaway and Assemblywoman Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Urges federal government to ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and pursue other measures to reduce danger of nuclear war.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on March 11, 2019, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/24/2019)

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the federal government to
2 pursue a broad range of measures to reduce the danger of nuclear
3 war and to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
4 Weapons.
5
- 6 **WHEREAS**, Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever
7 created by mankind, with immense destructive capacity and
8 lingering radiation effects after detonation; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, More than ¹**[ninety]** 90¹ percent of these weapons are in
10 the hands of the United States and Russia, and the rest are held by
11 seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, North
12 Korea, and the United Kingdom; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, Since the height of the Cold War, the United States has
14 reduced its active weapons by more than 25,000 nuclear warheads,
15 but about 4,000 still exist, almost 2,000 of which are on alert for
16 use at short notice; and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, A large-scale nuclear war would cause hundreds of
18 millions of casualties and cause unimaginable environmental
19 damage, and create catastrophic climate disruption by dropping
20 temperatures across the planet to levels that would cause crop
21 failures and mass starvation; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, Under current ¹**[U.S.] federal**¹ law, the President has the
23 authority to unilaterally initiate the use of a nuclear weapon; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, The power of the United States' stockpile of nuclear
25 weapons is too devastating and the result of their use ¹**[to]** too¹
26 irrevocable to be left to the sole authority of the President; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, Renouncing the option of launching a first strike with
28 nuclear weapons would reduce tension and make a nuclear
29 exchange between the United States and another country less likely;
30 and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, These weapons are placed on hair-trigger alert, meaning
32 that the likelihood of an accidental launch or a launch as a result of
33 an international misunderstanding is highly possible; and
- 34 **WHEREAS**, The planned expenditure of about \$500 billion over the
35 next decade to maintain and enhance our nuclear arsenal, including
36 ¹**[by developing and deploying]** the development and deployment
37 of¹ new nuclear weapons and broadening the conditions for use,
38 will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster, but fuel a global
39 arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-
40 being of the American people and people all over the world; and
- 41 **WHEREAS**, The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was
42 adopted by the United Nations in July of 2017 and, to date, has
43 been signed by 70 countries, and prohibits the development, testing,
44 production, stockpiling, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear

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 March 11, 2019.

1 weapons, and sets out procedures for nuclear-armed signatories to
2 destroy their existing nuclear stockpile; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The United States, as well as the other nuclear weapon
4 **¹【states】 countries¹**, are not yet signatories to this treaty; and

5 **WHEREAS**, These actions would be a major step toward eliminating
6 the existence of nuclear weapons, which pose an intolerable risk to
7 human survival, especially if the United States pursues an
8 agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their arsenals;
9 now, therefore,

10

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
12 Jersey:

13

14 1. **¹【The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey】 This**
15 **House¹** urges the federal government to spearhead a global effort to
16 prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear
17 weapons **¹in a¹ first ¹strike¹**, ending the President's sole authority to
18 launch a nuclear attack, taking **¹【U.S.】 the¹** nuclear weapons **¹of the**
19 **United States¹** off hair-trigger alert, **¹【and】¹** canceling the plan to
20 replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced **¹nuclear¹** weapons,
21 and actively **¹【pursue】 pursuing¹** a verifiable agreement among
22 nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

23

24 2. **¹【The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey】 This**
25 **House¹** urges the President and the Senate of the United States to
26 ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

27

28 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
29 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
30 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of
31 the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
32 United States House of Representatives, and each member of
33 Congress elected thereto from New Jersey.