## P.L. 2019, Joint Resolution No. 6, *approved May 9*, *2019*Assembly Joint Resolution No. 172

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 WHEREAS, While many prospective business donors are hesitant to 10 donate excess food due to the threat of liability for food related 11 12 injuries or deaths, the federal "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food 13 Donation Act" provides robust civil and criminal protections to all people and businesses who, in good faith, donate wholesome food 14 to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals; and 15 16 WHEREAS, All food donors and nonprofit organizations receiving food donations are given similar civil and criminal protections against 17 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency, as much as 40 24 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 food for an active, healthy life; and 30 31 WHEREAS, Coinciding with a nationwide objective set out by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental 32 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

and resources for future generations, and provides support to those

in the community who do not have enough to eat; now, therefore,

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

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

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

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

## **STATEMENT**

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

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

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

Coinciding with similar efforts on the federal level, New Jersey has set a goal of reducing the amount of food waste annually generated in the State by 50 percent by the year 2030. Households can engage in a number of techniques to help achieve this goal. Educating citizens and businesses on the issue of food waste by recognizing "Food Waste Prevention Day" will help New Jersey

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	and the United States reduce the financial, environmental, and
2	social impacts of food waste.
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3	"Food Waste Prevention Day" in New Jersey.