

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 117

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of Ramadan of each year as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating month of Ramadan of each year
2 as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of
3 New Jersey.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey takes great pride in the varied
6 religious, political, and cultural traditions enjoyed by the residents
7 of this State, and in supporting individual religious freedom; and
8 **WHEREAS**, There are more than 160,000 Muslims in New Jersey,
9 representing a greater percentage of the State’s population than the
10 national average; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The history of Muslims in this country dates back to before
12 the country’s founding, originating with African slaves who
13 brought their beliefs with them and who later contributed in
14 numerous ways to the founding of the nation, including as
15 courageous and dedicated members of the United States Armed
16 Forces in every major war from the American Revolutionary War
17 to present-day conflicts; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The Muslim heritage has provided significant ideas and
19 objects that have shaped our world, including such achievements as
20 the first university, the first pin-hole camera, surgical instruments,
21 and brewed coffee, as well as achievements in astronomy, modern
22 chemistry, optics, and music; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Muslims strive to promote peace and understanding
24 between all faiths, identities, and nationalities, while upholding the
25 values and principles that define the people of the United States of
26 America; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Muslims and followers of Islam observe Ramadan, a holy
28 month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran
29 to Muhammad, a holy book believed to contain the exact words of
30 God given to Muhammed via the angel Gabriel; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Ramadan is the most important month of the Islamic
32 calendar and its annual observance is regarded as one of the Five
33 Pillars of Islam, a series of formal acts of worship; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Ramadan, the ninth month of the 12-month Islamic
35 calendar, is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting
36 from dawn until sunset; and
37 **WHEREAS**, In addition to fasting, Muslims also engage in increased
38 prayer and charity, and self-discipline; it is a time of spiritual
39 reflection, improvement and increased devotion and worship; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The end of Ramadan is celebrated with a three-day festival
41 known as Eid al-Fitr, one of Islam’s major holidays and includes
42 special prayers and meals with family and friends, and gifts are
43 often exchanged; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Ramadan is based on a lunar calendar and, therefore,
45 doesn’t start on the same date of each year; and
46 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey greatly benefits from the
47 expertise, patriotism, and humanitarianism of Muslims and the
48 health and vitality they contribute to communities; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey recognizes the positive impact Muslims have
2 made, and continue to make, to the advancement of this State and
3 the nation, and believes it is appropriate to acknowledge and
4 promote awareness of the invaluable contributions of Muslims and
5 Muslim communities, and recognize the importance of the
6 observance of Ramadan; now, therefore,

7

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

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11 1. The month of Ramadan of each year is designated as
12 “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of New
13 Jersey.

14 The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation
15 each year calling upon public officials and citizens of the State to
16 observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

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18 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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23 This Joint Resolution designates the month of Ramadan of each
24 year as “Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State
25 of New Jersey. This designation would allow the State and its
26 residents to respectfully acknowledge and promote awareness of the
27 many contributions of Muslims who reside in this State and in the
28 United States, and the importance of the observance of Ramadan.