

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 17

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

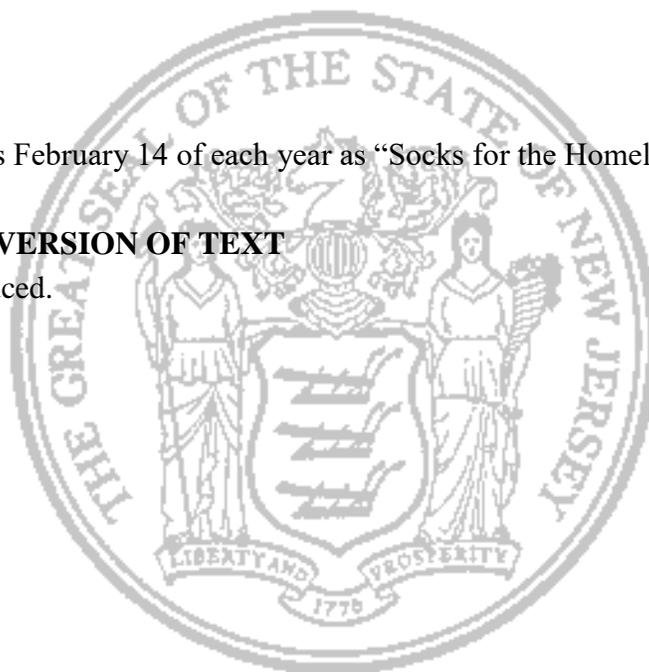
**Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Wimberly, Danielsen, Assemblywomen
McKnight and Vainieri Huttle**

SYNOPSIS

Designates February 14 of each year as "Socks for the Homeless Day."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2018)

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating February 14 of each year as
2 “Socks for the Homeless Day.”

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4 **WHEREAS**, According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
5 Development’s January 2017 Point in Time survey, 553,742 people
6 in the United States are homeless, with chronic or long-term
7 homelessness increasing 12 percent from 2016; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The number of homeless individuals in New Jersey
9 totalled over 8,500 according to the January 2017 survey, although
10 it has been noted that the number may actually be even higher; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The myriad challenges faced daily by homeless individuals
12 in our society threaten their health, safety, and dignity; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Without access to shelter, employment, and basic
14 amenities, clean socks are very frequently out of reach of those
15 individuals, children, and families who are homeless either
16 temporarily or on a long-term basis; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Socks are a basic need, and help prevent frostbite,
18 hypothermia, blisters, and ulcers, any of which if left untreated
19 could potentially lead to the need for amputation, particularly when
20 an individual’s health is already compromised; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Clean, well-made socks are essential to protect the skin
22 and soft tissue of the feet from injury, help manage the moisture
23 that is produced by glands in the feet, and protect the feet and toes
24 from extreme temperatures; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Shoe liners can harbor fungus and bacteria and socks help
26 to protect the wearer from acquiring an infection of the toe or foot
27 as a result of contact with the fungus or bacteria; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Clothing donations to organizations that support the
29 homeless population are much appreciated and desperately needed,
30 but rarely include socks; and

31 **WHEREAS**, By increasing awareness of the many challenges and
32 dangers facing individuals who are homeless, including their
33 ongoing need for socks, the generous citizens of the State are
34 encouraged to make monetary or in-kind donations to charitable
35 organizations that serve the homeless population, including those
36 that provide much-needed socks; and

37 **WHEREAS**, It is appropriate that February 14 of each year be
38 designated as “Socks for the Homeless Day” to help meet a basic
39 need that, although simple, can make a significant difference in the
40 daily life of an individual who is dealing with homelessness; now,
41 therefore,

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

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46 1. February 14 of each year shall be designated as “Socks for the
47 Homeless Day” in New Jersey to raise public awareness of

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1 homelessness and the ongoing need for socks by children, adults,
2 and families who are homeless.

3

4 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
5 calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe
6 “Socks for the Homeless Day” with appropriate activities and
7 programs.

8

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This joint resolution designates February 14 of each year as
15 “Socks for the Homeless Day” in the State to raise public awareness
16 of homelessness and the ongoing need for socks by children, adults,
17 and families who are homeless.

18 The number of homeless individuals in New Jersey totalled over
19 8,500 in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s
20 January 2017 Point in Time survey. Clean socks are out of reach of
21 those individuals, children, and families who are homeless either
22 temporarily or on a long-term basis. Socks are a basic need, and
23 help prevent frostbite, hypothermia, blisters, and ulcers, any of
24 which if left untreated could potentially lead to the need for
25 amputation, particularly when an individual’s health is already
26 compromised. Clean, well-made socks are essential to protect the
27 skin and soft tissue of the feet from injury, help manage the
28 moisture that is produced by glands in the feet, and protect the feet
29 and toes from extreme temperatures. Clothing donations to
30 organizations that support the homeless population are much
31 appreciated and desperately needed, but rarely include socks.

32 The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
33 calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe
34 “Socks for the Homeless Day” with appropriate activities and
35 programs.