

P.L. 2020, Joint Resolution No. 2, *approved August 31, 2020*
Senate Joint Resolution No. 85 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating August 31 of each year as
2 “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS,** ¹**【Drug addiction】** Substance use disorder¹ is a chronic
5 disease ¹**【,】** characterized by ¹the problematic,¹ compulsive ¹,¹
6 or ¹**【difficult to control drug】** difficult-to-control¹ use ¹of drugs
7 and other substances,¹ despite harmful consequences; and
8 **WHEREAS,** ¹**【Drug addiction】** Substance use disorder, particularly
9 when it involves opioid drugs,¹ is seen by both the ¹federal¹
10 Centers for Disease Control ¹and Prevention¹ and the World
11 Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too
12 easily lead to overdose and death; and
13 **WHEREAS,** In 2018, 67,367 individuals died from drug overdoses in
14 the United States; and
15 **WHEREAS,** In New Jersey alone, 2,900 people died from drug
16 overdoses in 2018; and
17 **WHEREAS,** Furthermore, for every drug overdose that results in
18 death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an
19 emotional and economic toll on ¹**【the individual】** individuals¹ ,
20 their ¹**【family】** families¹ , and the community at large; and
21 **WHEREAS,** ¹**【Drug addiction】** A substance use disorder¹ can fuel
22 feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression, and
23 hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and
24 support; and
25 **WHEREAS,** Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on
26 August 31 of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug
27 overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and ¹**【to】**¹
28 acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering
29 those who ¹**【have died or had a permanent injury】** died or were
30 permanently injured¹ as a result of a drug overdose; and
31 ²**【WHEREAS,** To further the goals of Overdose Awareness Day, all
32 flags throughout the State should be flown at half-staff for the
33 day’s duration; and**】**²
34 **WHEREAS,** Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey
35 sends a strong message to former ¹**【or】** and¹ current substance
36 users, namely, that they are valued, and that overdose death is
37 preventable; now, therefore,

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted July 22, 2020.

²Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted August 24, 2020.

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

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4 1. August 31 of each year shall be designated as “Overdose
5 Awareness Day” in New Jersey to raise awareness of overdose and
6 reduce the stigma of a drug-related death.

7 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to ²[order flags be
8 flown at half-staff] observe a moment of silence² ¹on August 31 of
9 each year¹ and to ¹annually¹ issue a proclamation calling upon
10 public officials and the citizens of this State to observe “Overdose
11 Awareness Day” with appropriate activities and programs ¹[each
12 year]^{1 2 2}

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14 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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19 Designates August 31 of each year “Overdose Awareness Day”
20 in New Jersey.