

[First Reprint]

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 41

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

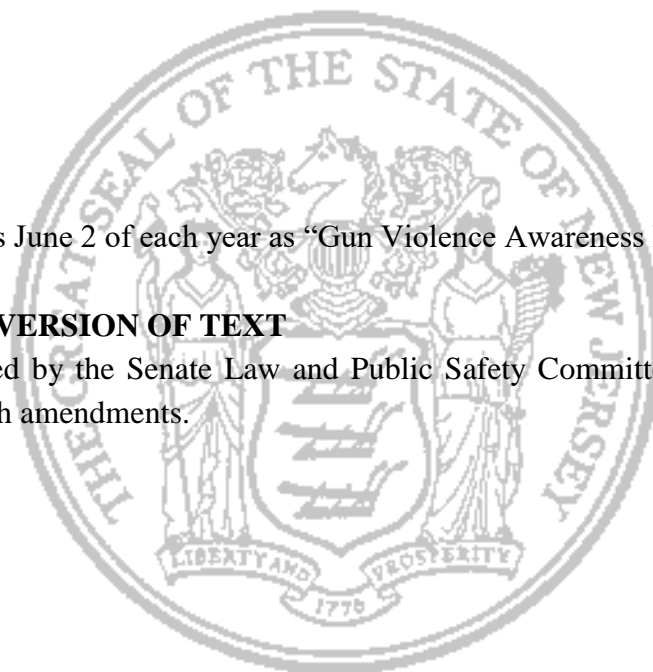
Senators Gopal, Greenstein, Pou, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie, Chaparro, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Jimenez, Assemblymen McKeon, Freiman, Greenwald, Karabinchak and Assemblywoman Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 2 of each year as “Gun Violence Awareness Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on February 24, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

1 A **JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June 2 of each year as “Gun
2 Violence Awareness Day” in the State of New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, According to data from the Centers for Disease Control
5 and Prevention (CDC), in ¹**[2016]** 2017¹ there were a total of
6 ¹**[38,658]** 39,773¹ firearm related deaths in the United States and
7 of those deaths an estimated ¹**[13,000]** 14,542¹ are attributed to
8 firearm homicides; and
9 ¹**[WHEREAS**, The CDC data indicates that nationwide an annual
10 average of 67,197 nonfatal firearm injuries occur; and]¹
11 **WHEREAS**, According to the CDC, in New Jersey there were
12 ¹**[485]** 478¹ firearm related deaths in ¹**[2016]** 2017¹ and ¹**[475]**
13 420¹ firearm related deaths in ¹**[2015]** 2018¹; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with
15 firearms than people in other developed countries; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Firearm violence is the leading cause of death for
17 women in instances of domestic violence in the United States
18 each year; and
19 **WHEREAS**, ¹**[Thousands of children under the age of 19 annually**
20 **die as a result of firearms]** An estimated 1,500 children die
21 annually as a result of firearms, according to the Giffords Law
22 Center to Prevent Gun Violence¹; and
23 **WHEREAS**, One example of these tragic child victims is Hadiya
24 Pendleton who, at the age of 15, was shot and killed in Chicago
25 just one week after performing at ¹former¹ President ¹Barack¹
26 Obama’s second inaugural parade in 2013; and
27 **WHEREAS**, On June 2, 2013, a group of Chicago teens
28 commemorated the life of their slain friend, Hadiya, by marching
29 to raise awareness about firearm violence; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Many communities across the nation have marched
31 annually on June 2 to recognize the death of Hadiya, to honor the
32 many lives cut short and the hundreds more injured by firearm
33 violence every day, and to demand action to end these tragedies;
34 and
35 **WHEREAS**, Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-
36 abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping firearms away
37 from dangerous people; and
38 **WHEREAS**, The goals of the national “Gun Violence Awareness
39 Day” campaign are: to promote greater awareness about firearm
40 violence and firearm safety; to concentrate annual heightened
41 attention to firearm violence during the summer months, when
42 firearm violence typically increases; and to bring citizens and
43 community leaders together to discuss ways to make our
44 communities safer; and

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 SLP committee amendments adopted February 24, 2020.

1 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey encourages all citizens to
2 support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic
3 effects of firearm violence and declares June 2 of every year as
4 “Gun Violence Awareness Day” in this State to honor and
5 remember all victims and survivors of firearm violence and to
6 declare that we as a country must do more to reduce firearm
7 violence; now, therefore,

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

11
12 1. June 2 of each year is designated as “Gun Violence
13 Awareness Day” in New Jersey to honor and remember all victims
14 of, and others affected by, firearm violence.

15
16 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation and call
17 upon public officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this
18 State to observe “Gun Violence Awareness Day” with appropriate
19 awareness activities and programs.

20
21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.