

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 85

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating August 31 of each year as
2 “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by
5 compulsive or difficult to control drug use despite harmful
6 consequences; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for Disease
8 Control and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing
9 epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death; and

10 **WHEREAS**, In 2018, 67,367 individuals died from drug overdoses in
11 the United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey alone, 2,900 people died from drug
13 overdoses in 2018; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Furthermore, for every drug overdose that results in death,
15 there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional
16 and economic toll on the individual, their family, and the
17 community at large; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt,
19 embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals
20 to resist seeking treatment and support; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August
22 31 of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses,
23 reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and to acknowledge the
24 grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died
25 or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

26 **WHEREAS**, To further the goals of Overdose Awareness Day, all flags
27 throughout the State should be flown at half-staff for the day’s
28 duration; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey
30 sends a strong message to former or current substance users,
31 namely, that they are valued, and that overdose death is
32 preventable; now, therefore,

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

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

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41 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to order flags be
42 flown at half-staff and to issue a proclamation calling upon public
43 officials and the citizens of this State to observe “Overdose
44 Awareness Day” with appropriate activities and programs each
45 year.

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47 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This resolution designates August 31 of each year as “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

Drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by compulsive or difficult to control drug use despite harmful consequences, and is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death. In 2018, 67,367 individuals died from drug overdoses in the United States, while in New Jersey alone that year, 2,900 people died from drug overdoses. Furthermore, for every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, their family, and the community at large.

Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, which can cause individuals to resist seeking treatment and support. Overdose Awareness Day is a international event held on August 31 of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose. To further the goals of Overdose Awareness Day, all flags throughout the State should be flown at half-staff for the day’s duration. Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey sends a strong message to former or current substance users, namely, that they are valued, and that overdose death is preventable.