

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 85

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 1996

By Senators RICE, LIPMAN, MacInnes, Palaia, Ewing, Lynch and
Bryant

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging all New Jersey elected officials to
2 attend a worship service during the month of July to demonstrate unity of
3 support for efforts to stop damage and destruction to churches and houses
4 of worship.

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6 WHEREAS, The incidence of desecration of places of worship and burial
7 grounds has increased at an alarming rate in recent years; and

8 WHEREAS, Since 1990, more than 60 such incidents involving arson at
9 religious institutions in 15 states have been investigated with more than 40
10 remaining unsolved; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 of these incidents have occurred at predominantly black
12 religious institutions in southern states; and

13 WHEREAS, Federal, state and local officials across the country are committed
14 to investigating , apprehending and prosecuting the persons responsible for
15 these crimes, and are investigating whether the acts of arson directed at the
16 religious institutions are a part of an organized conspiracy or based on
17 random acts of hatred; and

18 WHEREAS, Such openly hostile acts of violence must be denounced through
19 the strongest possible means by all persons committed to religious and
20 racial tolerance; and

21 WHEREAS, New Jersey elected officials are to be encouraged to take a
22 leadership role in denouncing these acts of violence, in demonstrating a
23 commitment bringing the responsible parties to justice and in showing
24 support for the federal, state and local efforts already underway to stop
25 these incidents; now, therefore,

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27 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General
28 Assembly concurring):

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30 1. Every Member of Congress elected from this State, and every elected
31 official in New Jersey at the State, county and local government level is
32 encouraged to attend a religious worship service during the month of July to
33 demonstrate unity of support for federal, state and local efforts against burning,
34 defacing or defiling churches and houses of worship.

1 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
2 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the
3 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly shall be
4 transmitted to each Member of Congress elected from this State, and each
5 elected official in New Jersey at the State, county and local government level.

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STATEMENT

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10 This Senate Concurrent Resolution encourages every elected official for the
11 State of New Jersey to attend a religious worship service during the month of
12 July to show support for efforts to condemn damage and destruction to
13 churches and religious institutions.

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18 Encourages elected officials to attend religious worship services to support
19 efforts against destruction of religious institutions.