

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION**

**No. 152**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

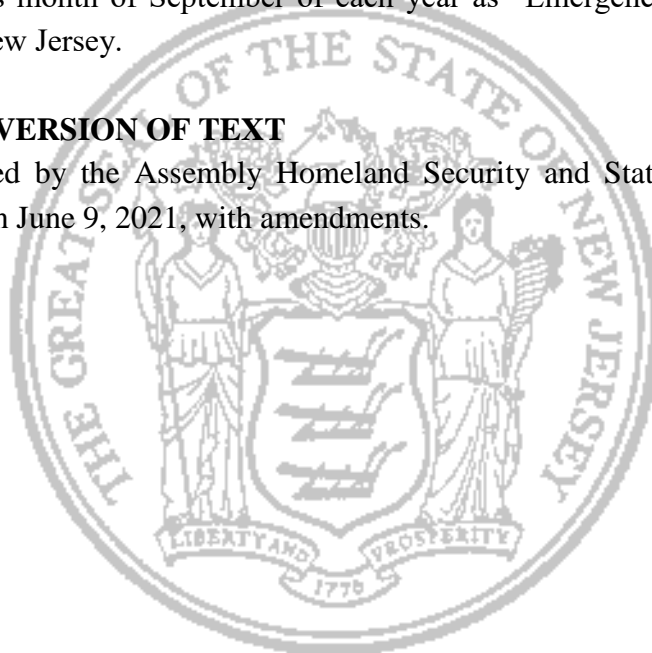
**Assemblywomen Timberlake and DiMaso**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates month of September of each year as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee on June 9, 2021, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)**

- 1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of September of each  
2       year as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in New Jersey.  
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- 4   **WHEREAS**, September has been designated by the Federal Emergency  
5       Management Agency (FEMA) as “National Preparedness Month,”  
6       to remind each of us that we must prepare ourselves and our  
7       families now and throughout the year for disasters; and
- 8   **WHEREAS**, Although hurricane season usually runs from June 1  
9       through November 30, hurricane and tropical storm activity peaks  
10      in New Jersey from mid-August through the end of October, and by  
11      taking simple steps now residents can decrease their risk of illness  
12      and injury when faced with an emergency—manmade or natural;  
13      and
- 14   **WHEREAS**, Prior to declared emergencies, every family should  
15      establish a family preparedness plan in case of an emergency or  
16      disaster, which should include establishing evacuation and meeting  
17      locations, creating communication and financial plans, determining  
18      how the family could best shelter in place, considering the medical  
19      and physical needs of all family members and pets, and evaluating  
20      property insurance needs; and
- 21   **WHEREAS**, Families should establish meeting locations where the  
22      family can reunite after a disaster, one location close to home and  
23      another farther away, in case they must evacuate or are unable to  
24      return to the home; and
- 25   **WHEREAS**, Residents should establish certain evacuation plans in  
26      advance of an emergency such as identifying possible evacuation  
27      routes and practicing how to exit the home; identifying available  
28      modes of transportation; establishing arrangements with family,  
29      neighbors, friends, or local government if personal transportation is  
30      unavailable; and contacting local public safety officials to make  
31      them aware of transportation needs; and
- 32   **WHEREAS**, Residents also should establish plans to shelter in place by  
33      designating at least one safe room within the home, ensuring  
34      necessary supplies and emergency kits are accessible, and for those  
35      who receive medical treatments or services, working with medical  
36      providers to determine how to maintain care and service if they are  
37      unable to leave the home for a period of time; and
- 38   **WHEREAS**, Families should consider the needs of everyone in the  
39      household when creating an emergency preparedness plan,  
40      including individuals with access and functional needs, seniors,  
41      children, and pets; and
- 42   **WHEREAS**, Families also should develop an emergency  
43      communication plan ensuring all family members have a way to  
44      contact each other after an emergency or disaster; 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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHS committee amendments adopted June 9, 2021.

1   **WHEREAS**, In addition, residents should prepare finances for an  
2       emergency by maintaining a small amount of cash in small  
3       denominations during a disaster to purchase supplies, fuel, or food  
4       and have access to personal financial, insurance, medical, and other  
5       records in case of crises; and

6   **WHEREAS**, It is important for residents to evaluate property insurance  
7       to avoid financial losses due to a disaster by reviewing insurance  
8       policies for adequate coverage, including documentation for  
9       household items, and maintaining a safe place for insurance  
10      documents; and

11   **WHEREAS**, The FEMA <sup>1</sup>**[**2018 national theme is “Disasters Happen.  
12       Prepare Now. Learn How.”**]** 2020 national theme was “Disasters  
13       Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.”<sup>1</sup>; and

14   **WHEREAS**, A well-prepared New Jersey citizenry can save lives; now,  
15       therefore

16

17       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
18       *State of New Jersey:*

19

20       1. The month of September of each year is designated as  
21       “Emergency Preparedness Month” to raise awareness of the  
22       importance of preparing ourselves and our families now and  
23       throughout the year for disasters.

24

25       2. The Governor respectfully is requested to issue a  
26       proclamation recognizing September as “Emergency Preparedness  
27       Month” and calling upon public officials and the residents of New  
28       Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and  
29       programs.

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31       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.