

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 153

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as “Cyber Security Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of October of each
2 year as “Cyber Security Awareness Month” in the State of New
3 Jersey.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Universal access to cyberspace has become a vital resource
6 in our society, allowing the residents of New Jersey to better
7 connect with family and friends, complete business transactions
8 remotely, work more efficiently, achieve educational goals, and
9 connect to digital resources and services; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Protecting cyberspace should be of paramount importance,
11 as this infrastructure is vulnerable to a wide range of threats
12 perpetrated through cyberspace, such as banking and financial
13 fraud, intellectual property violations, child pornography, human
14 exploitation, and other crimes, all of which have substantial social
15 and economic consequences; and
16 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, the Office of the Attorney General and the New
17 Jersey Division of State Police (DSP) announced that 687 cyber
18 data breaches affecting more than 116,000 New Jersey account
19 holders were reported to the DSP in calendar year 2016; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications
21 Integration Cell brings together analysts and engineers for cyber
22 security information sharing, threat analysis, and incident reporting
23 to fight against cyber threats on behalf of New Jersey residents and
24 businesses; and
25 **WHEREAS**, While the government can take steps to maintain a safe
26 cyber community, the government alone cannot solve the problem,
27 as cyber security is a shared responsibility; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Stop.Think.Connect.” campaign has been
29 designated as the national public awareness campaign implemented
30 through a coalition of private companies, nonprofits, government
31 organizations, and academic institutions working together to
32 increase the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the
33 American public to be safer and more secure online; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The President of the United States, the U.S. Department of
35 Homeland Security, the Multi-State Information Sharing and
36 Analysis Center, the National Association of State Chief
37 Information Officers, and the National Cyber Security Alliance
38 have declared the month of October as National Cyber Security
39 Awareness Month; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey recognizes that it is in the best
41 interest of its citizens that people of all ages should know how to
42 take appropriate measures to protect their online accounts and
43 personal information and declares October as “Cyber Security
44 Awareness Month” in this State to educate and inform the residents
45 of New Jersey about the risks of the internet and the importance of
46 being safe and responsible online; now, therefore,

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

3

4 1. October of each year is designated as “Cyber Security
5 Awareness Month” in New Jersey to educate the citizens of the
6 State on the risks of the Internet and the importance of being safe
7 and responsible online.

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9 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation and call
10 upon public officials, private organizations, and all citizens of this
11 State to observe “Cyber Security Awareness Month” with
12 appropriate activities and programs.

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14 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This joint resolution designates the month of October as “Cyber
20 Security Awareness Month” in New Jersey to educate the citizens
21 of the State on the risks of the Internet and the importance of being
22 safe and responsible cyberspace users. The resolution also requires
23 the Governor to issue a proclamation calling on public officials and
24 citizens of New Jersey to observe October as “Cyber Security
25 Awareness Month.”

26

27 Access to cyberspace has become a vital resource in our society,
28 allowing the residents of New Jersey to better connect with family
29 and friends, complete business transactions remotely, work more
30 efficiently, achieve educational goals, and connect to digital
31 resources and services. Although this access to cyberspace provides
32 many benefits, there are also potential risks to our confidential
33 information, personal privacy, and personal safety. This resolution
34 will allow the State to increase awareness, education, and training
to create a digital community that is safer in this State.