

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 204

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

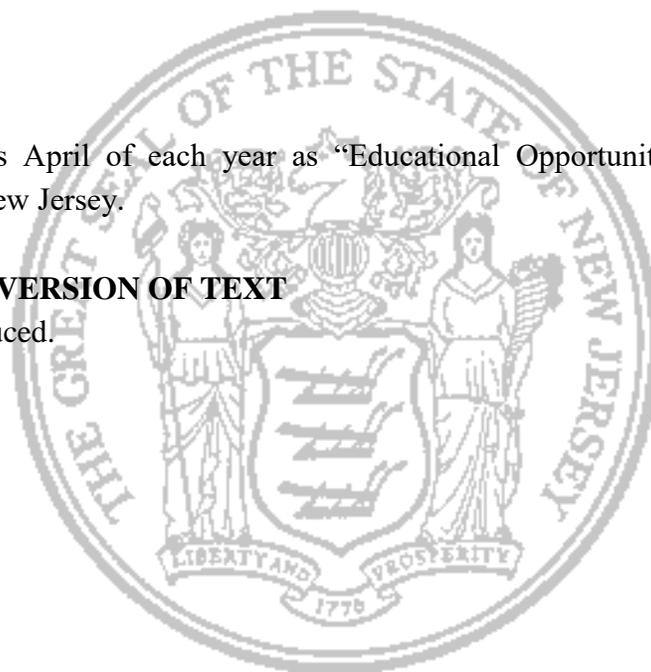
**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen
Timberlake, Vainieri Huttle, Carter, Senators Pou and Singleton**

SYNOPSIS

Designates April of each year as “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April of each year as
2 “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The “New Jersey Educational Opportunity Act of 1968,”
5 P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) established the Educational
6 Opportunity Fund (EOF) to ensure meaningful access to higher
7 education for economically and educationally disadvantaged
8 students; and

9 **WHEREAS**, For over 50 years, EOF has provided a wide array of
10 services and support for students, including counseling, tutoring,
11 and developmental course work, designed to foster academic
12 achievement, the development of leadership skills, and persistence
13 to graduation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, In addition to support services, EOF provides financial
15 assistance to eligible students at participating institutions. Under
16 EOF, annual undergraduate grants range from \$200 to \$2,650
17 depending on the type of institution, enrollment status, and financial
18 need of the student. The grants are renewable based upon continued
19 eligibility; and

20 **WHEREAS**, According to the Secretary of Higher Education, EOF
21 serves more than 13,000 students each year at 70 EOF campus
22 programs at 41 participating post-secondary institutions in the
23 State. Approximately 11,600 of the EOF recipients attend public
24 institutions of higher education; and

25 **WHEREAS**, In its final report issued in September 2016, the New
26 Jersey College Affordability Study Commission found that EOF is
27 a well-structured program with an effective and targeted approach
28 to making college more attainable and affordable for the students it
29 serves. The commission commended EOF for its outstanding work
30 in providing a gateway to higher education for students with
31 academic and financial challenges; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The commission also urged the continued support of EOF
33 and, where possible, encouraged the expansion of EOF through
34 increased State appropriations in order to meet the needs of more
35 New Jersey students; now, therefore,

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37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
38 *State of New Jersey:*

39
40 1. The month of April of each year is designated as
41 “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey in
42 order to recognize the critical role that EOF plays in ensuring the
43 meaningful access to higher education for economically and
44 educationally disadvantaged students in the State.

45
46 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
47 proclamation recognizing April as “Educational Opportunity Fund
48 (EOF) Month” in New Jersey and calling upon high schools, EOF-

1 participating post-secondary institutions, and other interested
2 groups to observe the month with appropriate activities and
3 programs, to promote EOF awareness, and to provide all students
4 with information about utilizing EOF.

5

6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This joint resolution designates April of each year as
12 “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey in
13 order to recognize the critical role that EOF plays in ensuring the
14 meaningful access to higher education for economically and
15 educationally disadvantaged students in the State. For over 50
16 years, EOF has provided a wide array of services and support for
17 students, including counseling, tutoring, and developmental course
18 work, designed to foster academic achievement, the development of
19 leadership skills, and persistence to graduation. In addition to
20 support services, EOF provides financial assistance to eligible
21 students at participating institutions.

22 Under the joint resolution, the Governor is respectfully requested
23 to annually issue a proclamation recognizing April as “Educational
24 Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey and calling upon
25 high schools, EOF-participating post-secondary institutions, and
26 other interested groups to observe the month with appropriate
27 activities and programs, to promote EOF awareness, and to provide
28 all students with information about utilizing EOF.