

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 136

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Designates May 16 of each year as “Day of the Boy” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May 16 of each year as “Day of
2 the Boy” in New Jersey.
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Studies have shown that boys experience unique
5 challenges relative to education, developmental disabilities and
6 violent crime; and

7 **WHEREAS**, According to a national 2016 parent survey, the estimated
8 number of children that have ever been diagnosed with Attention
9 Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (“ADHD”) is 6.1 million and boys
10 are more than twice as likely than girls to be diagnosed with
11 ADHD; and

12 **WHEREAS**, According to a 1999 to 2000 study, boys: drop out of
13 school, are diagnosed as emotionally disturbed, and commit suicide
14 four times more often than girls do; get into fights twice as often as
15 girls do; commit murder 10 times more often than girls do; are
16 generally 15 times more likely to be the victims of a violent crime
17 than girls are; and are six times more likely to be diagnosed with
18 Attention Deficit Disorder than girls are; and

19 **WHEREAS**, A 2018 report of New Jersey’s incarceration trends reflects
20 that, even though New Jersey men’s jail admissions had declined
21 since 2008 while New Jersey women’s jail admissions had grown
22 substantially, there were still more men than women incarcerated in
23 New Jersey jails; and

24 **WHEREAS**, A 1997 to 2008 pediatric study published by researchers
25 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in
26 collaboration with researchers from the Health Resources and
27 Services Administration, reflects that males had twice the
28 prevalence of any developmental disability than females and
29 specifically had higher prevalence of ADHD, autism, learning
30 disabilities, and stuttering / stammering; and

31 **WHEREAS**, A 2007 article notes that boys are two and a half times
32 more likely than girls to be suspended from school and three point
33 four times more likely than girls to be expelled; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Founded by Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, the first
35 “International Day of the Boy Child”, also known as “International
36 Boy’s Day”, was observed on May 16, 2018; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The goal of “International Boys’ Day” is that every boy
38 grow up to become a man of honor and integrity and contribute in a
39 vital way to his family, his community, and his nation in order to
40 make the world a better place for boys and girls everywhere; and

41 **WHEREAS**, Further, in the United States, “National Son’s Day” has
42 historically been celebrated on September 28, and since 2018, has
43 also been celebrated by many on March 4; and

44 **WHEREAS**, “National Son’s Day” is intended to ensure that boys
45 across the United States are getting the foundations, education, and
46 the support they need to have the best possible life as they grow up,
47 to show appreciation for the boys in our lives, and for parents of
48 boys, to reflect on the way they are raising their sons; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, It is consistent with these stated goals and the public policy
2 of this State that New Jersey also recognize a Day of the Boy; now,
3 therefore,
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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
6 *State of New Jersey:*
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8 1. May 16 of each year is designated as “Day of the Boy” in
9 New Jersey.
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11 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
12 proclamation and call upon public officials, private organizations,
13 and all citizens of this State to observe “Day of the Boy” with
14 appropriate awareness activities and programs.
15

16 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
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19 **STATEMENT**
20

21 This resolution establishes May 16 of each year as “Day of the
22 Boy” in New Jersey.

23 The State of New Jersey supports providing boys with the
24 foundations, education, and resources they need to have the best
25 possible lives and to become contributing members of their
26 families, communities and the world. Boys face unique challenges
27 relative to education, developmental disabilities and violent crime.
28 For instance, studies have shown that boys are more likely than
29 girls to be diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder,
30 Attention Deficit Disorder, autism, learning disabilities,
31 stammering/stuttering, and developmental disabilities. Studies have
32 also shown that boys are more likely than girls to drop out of
33 school, be suspended and expelled, commit suicide, commit murder,
34 and be the victims of a violent crime. And there are still more men
35 than women incarcerated in New Jersey jails. Countries across the
36 world celebrate “International Boys’ Day” and the United States
37 recognizes “National Sons’ Day” to support boys. The State of New
38 Jersey can raise awareness within the public, as well as within the
39 educational, medical and justice systems within this State, in order
40 to support boys and their families.