

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 101

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey residents to patronize small businesses to support them through COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging all New Jersey residents to patronize
2 small businesses to support them through the COVID-19
3 pandemic.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, There are more than 860,000 small businesses operating
6 in New Jersey, which employ an estimated 1.8 million individuals
7 in this State; and
8 **WHEREAS**, These small businesses are the backbone of New Jersey's
9 economy, providing services and employment to individuals
10 throughout the State in such varied industries as finance, health
11 care, the arts, real estate, food and restaurant, and retail, among
12 many others; and
13 **WHEREAS**, On January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of
14 Health and Human Services declared the outbreak of a novel
15 coronavirus, abbreviated as COVID-19, as a public health
16 emergency for the United States; and
17 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory
18 disease that can spread from person to person via respiratory
19 droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and
20 **WHEREAS**, On March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy declared a State of
21 Emergency and a Public Health Emergency to address the
22 COVID-19 pandemic in this State; and
23 **WHEREAS**, On March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy announced
24 Executive Order No. 107, which closed all non-essential retail
25 businesses and directed all New Jersey residents to stay at home
26 to mitigate the impact and spread of COVID-19; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Due to this Executive Order closing all non-essential
28 retail businesses and directing all New Jersey residents to stay at
29 home, small businesses throughout this State faced and continue to
30 face enormous economic pressure; and
31 **WHEREAS**, According to a March 2020 survey conducted by the New
32 Jersey Economic Development Authority, as a result of the
33 COVID-19 pandemic 73 percent of businesses reported a
34 significant loss of revenue and over half of these businesses
35 anticipated temporary layoffs; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The economic circumstances of businesses and individuals
37 have continued to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic, as New
38 Jersey workers have filed more than 1.65 million applications for
39 unemployment insurance since the pandemic began; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Over the course of the late spring and summer of 2020,
41 Governor Murphy issued several executive orders, which have lifted
42 the stay-at-home order on New Jersey residents and permitted
43 various types of businesses to begin reopening, but with restrictions
44 in place that have been costly and burdensome to implement; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The restrictions have included an initial prohibition on
46 indoor dining, capacity limits for indoor dining once it was
47 permitted, indoor capacity limits for other types of businesses, social

1 distancing requirements indoors and outdoors, and increased safety
2 and sanitization protocols across every industry; and
3 **WHEREAS**, The months of closure and the difficulties businesses faced
4 while reopening have led to continued revenue losses and many
5 permanent closures Statewide, and most profoundly affected small
6 businesses; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Small businesses are locally owned and operated by our
8 hardworking family members, our friends, and our neighbors, who
9 need the patronage of all New Jersey residents to financially
10 recover from the economic devastation brought forth by the COVID-
11 19 pandemic; now, therefore,

12
13 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

- 14
15 1. The residents of the State of New Jersey are urged to patronize
16 small businesses to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic.
17
18 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
19 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor of
20 New Jersey, the Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, and the Chief
21 Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic Development
22 Authority.

23
24

25 **STATEMENT**

26

27 This resolution urges all New Jersey residents to patronize small
28 businesses to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic.

29 There are over 860,000 small businesses operating in New Jersey,
30 which employ an estimated 1.8 million individuals in this State.
31 These small businesses are the backbone of New Jersey's economy,
32 providing services and employment to individuals throughout the
33 State in such varied industries as finance, health care, the arts, real
34 estate, food and restaurant, and retail, among many others. On
35 January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human
36 Services declared the outbreak of a novel coronavirus, abbreviated as
37 COVID-19, as a public health emergency for the United States.
38 COVID-19 is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease that
39 can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced
40 when an infected person coughs or sneezes. On March 9, 2020,
41 Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency and a Public Health
42 Emergency to address the COVID19 pandemic in this State.

43 On March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy announced Executive
44 Order No. 107, which closed all non-essential retail businesses and
45 directed all New Jersey residents to stay at home to mitigate the
46 impact and spread of COVID-19. As a result of this Executive Order
47 closing all non-essential retail businesses and directing all New

1 Jersey residents to stay at home, small businesses throughout this
2 State face enormous economic pressure.

3 According to a March 2020 survey conducted by the New Jersey
4 Economic Development Authority, as a result of the COVID-19
5 pandemic 73 percent of businesses reported a significant loss of
6 revenue and over half of these businesses anticipated temporary
7 layoffs. The economic circumstances of businesses and individuals
8 have continued to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic, as New
9 Jersey workers have filed more than 1.65 million applications for
10 unemployment insurance since the pandemic began.

11 Over the course of the late spring and summer of 2020, Governor
12 Murphy issued several executive orders, which lifted the stay-at-
13 home order on New Jersey residents and permitted various types of
14 businesses to begin reopening, but with restrictions in place that have
15 been costly and burdensome to implement. The restrictions have
16 included an initial prohibition on indoor dining, capacity limits for
17 indoor dining once it was permitted, indoor capacity limits for other
18 types of businesses, social distancing requirements indoors and
19 outdoors, and increased safety and sanitization protocols across every
20 industry.

21 The months of closure and the difficulties businesses faced while
22 reopening have led to continued revenue losses and many permanent
23 closures Statewide, and most profoundly affected small businesses.
24 Small businesses are locally owned and operated by our hardworking
25 family members, our friends, and our neighbors, who need the
26 patronage of all New Jersey residents to financially recover from the
27 economic devastation brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic.