

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 70

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Gordon, T.Kean, Singer, Baroni, Redd, Vitale and Allen

SYNOPSIS

Designates October of each year as “Disability History and Awareness Month” and encourages instruction concerning disabilities in the public schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October of each year as
2 “Disability History and Awareness Month” in New Jersey and
3 encouraging instruction on the history, achievements, and
4 experiences of people with disabilities in the public schools.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The United States Census Bureau reported in 2000 that
7 18% of New Jersey residents have some form of disability; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In order to ensure the full inclusion of people with
9 disabilities into society, it is necessary to expand the public’s
10 knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the history,
11 achievements, and experiences of people with disabilities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The disability rights movement is a civil rights movement
13 that is an important part of the history of this State and country; and

14 **WHEREAS**, October is recognized nationally as “Disability Awareness
15 Month;” and

16 **WHEREAS**, There is a need to increase public awareness and respect
17 for people with disabilities, teach future generations that people
18 with disabilities have a rich history and have made valuable
19 contributions throughout the State and nation, and ensure that future
20 generations understand that disability is a natural part of life and
21 that people with disabilities have a right to be treated, above all
22 else, as individuals; and

23 **WHEREAS**, There is a need to include instruction on disability history,
24 people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement into the
25 existing public school curriculum; now, therefore,

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27 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
28 *State of New Jersey:*

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30 1. October of each year is designated as “Disability History and
31 Awareness Month” in New Jersey to foster awareness and
32 understanding of the history, achievements, and experiences of
33 people with disabilities.

34
35 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
36 proclamation recognizing October as “Disability History and
37 Awareness Month” in New Jersey and public officials and the
38 citizens of this State are called upon to observe the month with
39 appropriate activities and programs.

40
41 3. The Commissioner of Education is urged to develop and
42 distribute curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and
43 topics concerning and relating to disability history, people with
44 disabilities, and the disability rights movement to each school
45 district in the State and to encourage their adoption by such
46 districts.

47
48 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

