

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywomen McKnight, Speight, Senators Vitale, Cruz-Perez, Cryan,
Singleton, Zwicker and Pou**

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designates first full week in April as “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on January 23, 2023, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/2/2023)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the first full week
2 in April as the “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Learning and development are shaped by the earliest
5 years of a child’s life; and
6 **WHEREAS**, The State’s future depends on the high-quality early
7 childhood experiences provided to young children today,
8 preparing them for school success and brighter outcomes; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education
10 services represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future
11 by preparing them to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and
12 live healthier lives; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education
14 services also makes working families more economically secure
15 by reducing child-care costs, thereby saving taxpayer dollars that
16 would otherwise go to child care assistance programs dedicated
17 to low-income families; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Working families need a mixed-delivery early
19 childhood education system where the quality of services is not
20 ¹**[comprised]** compromised¹ by economic factors or lack of
21 accessibility when selecting child care arrangements that best
22 meet the needs of their family; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The State’s early childhood education workforce needs
24 skilled, qualified, and adequately compensated early childhood
25 educators who reflect a diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural
26 identities, and provide children and families of this State with
27 developmentally appropriate child care services in educational
28 settings that are both accessible and affordable; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey needs to provide robust
30 subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income
31 levels to help alleviate the true cost of high-quality early
32 childhood education; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The Week of the Young Child ¹**[(WOYC)]**¹ is a week-
34 long celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of
35 young children and their families, recognizes the programs and
36 services that meet those needs, and coordinates music, food, and
37 art activities to help develop children’s math, literacy, and motor
38 skills; and
39 **WHEREAS**, The National Association for the Education of Young
40 Children (NAEYC), in partnership with state and local
41 organizations, early childhood professionals, and families and
42 children, are celebrating ¹**[the of]**¹ the ¹**[WOYC April 2 through**
43 **April 8, 2022]** Week of the Young Child April 1 through April
44 7, 2023¹; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted January 23, 2023.

1 **WHEREAS**, By calling attention to the need for high-quality early
2 childhood education services for all children and families within
3 the State of New Jersey, the NAEYC and its partners groups
4 hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; and
5 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate the first week in
6 April as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New
7 Jersey to recognize the importance of high-quality early
8 childhood education that is affordable and accessible and
9 advance the child care and early childhood education
10 professions; now, therefore,

11
12 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
13 *State of New Jersey:*

14
15 1. The first full week in April shall be permanently designated
16 as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New Jersey to
17 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education
18 that is affordable and accessible and to advance the child care and
19 early childhood education professions.

20
21 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
22 proclamation recognizing the first full week in April as the “Week
23 of the Young Child” in New Jersey and calling upon public
24 officials, the citizens of the State, and other interested groups to
25 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

26
27 ¹【3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of
28 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
29 the Secretary of the Senate to the New Jersey Association for the
30 Education of Young Children.】¹

31
32 ¹【4. 】3.¹ This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.