ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 195

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 17, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Stanley, Senators Pou and Durr

SYNOPSIS

Designates third week of September of each year as "New Jersey Rail Safety Week."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

AJR195 BENSON, VERRELLI

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1	A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the third week of September of
2	each year as "New Jersey Rail Safety Week."
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4	WHEREAS, The State and federal government have a responsibility to
5	maintain a robust multimodal transportation network that not only
6	serves the mobility needs of all residents but also ensures the safety
7	of all persons who navigate this system; and
8	WHEREAS, Points of intersection with railroad tracks, including
9	highway grade crossings and pedestrian trespassings, often
10	represent the highest risk of catastrophic injury for motorists and
11	pedestrians; and
12	WHEREAS, According to the Federal Railroad Administration, New
13	Jersey witnessed at least 16 deaths and 45 non-fatal injuries from
14	motor vehicle accidents along highway grade crossings since 2017,
15	as well as 10 deaths and 17 non-fatal injuries from pedestrian
16	trespass incidents during this period; and
17	WHEREAS, Many of these tragic events could have been prevented by
18	increased public awareness concerning the dangers of railroad
19	crossings and the importance of following appropriate safety
20	measures; and
21	WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey is a leader in supporting safety
22	programs dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities, and injuries
23	along highway-rail crossings and railroad tracks; and
24	WHEREAS, New Jersey Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit organization
25	established in 1978, has also played an important role in increasing
26	public awareness of rail safety issues and providing public safety
27	education programs for communities throughout the State; and
28	WHEREAS, The efforts of New Jersey Operation Lifesaver are strongly
29	supported by this State, as well as industry stakeholders, such as the
30	New Jersey Railroad Association; and
31	WHEREAS, Since 2017, Operation Lifesaver has annually observed the
32	third week of September as "Rail Safety Week" in an attempt to
33	empower the public to make safe and informed decisions when
34	traveling nearby railroad infrastructure; and
35	WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper for the State of New
36	Jersey to honor this annual observance in order to increase public
37	awareness of rail safety issues and to encourage all motorists and
38	pedestrians to take appropriate caution nearby trains and railroad
39	tracks; now, therefore,
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41	BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
42	State of New Jersey:
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44	1. The third full week of September of each year is designated
45	as "New Jersey Rail Safety Week" in the State of New Jersey to
46	increase public awareness of rail safety issues and to encourage all
47	motorists and pedestrians to take appropriate caution when traveling

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nearby railroad infrastructure.

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2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation designating the third full week of September as "New Jersey Rail Safety Week" and shall call upon the public officials and citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution designates the third full week of September of each year as "New Jersey Rail Safety Week."

The State and federal government have a responsibility to maintain a robust multimodal transportation network that not only serves the mobility needs of all residents but also ensures the safety of all persons who navigate this system. Points of intersection with railroad tracks, including highway grade crossings and pedestrian trespassings, often represent the highest risk of catastrophic injury for motorists and pedestrians. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, New Jersey witnessed at least 16 deaths and 45 non-fatal injuries from motor vehicle accidents along highway grade crossings since 2017, as well as 10 deaths and 17 non-fatal injuries from pedestrian trespass incidents during this period.

Many of these tragic events could have been prevented by increased public awareness concerning the dangers of railroad crossings and the importance of following appropriate safety measures. In response, the State of New Jersey has become a leader in supporting safety programs dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities, and injuries along highway-rail crossings and railroad tracks. Additionally, New Jersey Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit organization established in 1978, has also played an important role in increasing public awareness of rail safety issues and providing public safety education programs for communities throughout the State.

Since 2017, Operation Lifesaver has annually observed the third week of September as "Rail Safety Week" in an attempt to empower the public to make safe and informed decisions when traveling nearby railroad infrastructure. Accordingly, it is altogether fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to honor this annual observance in order to increase public awareness of rail safety issues and to encourage all motorists and pedestrians to take appropriate caution nearby trains and railroad tracks.