

P.L. 2023, Joint Resolution No. 14, *approved August 7, 2023*
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 195

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,
40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
42 *State of New Jersey:*

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1 issues and to encourage all motorists and pedestrians to take
2 appropriate caution nearby trains and railroad tracks.

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8 Rail Safety Week.”