

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 146**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2023

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator RENEE C. BURGESS**  
**District 28 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Governor to direct all relevant State departments and agencies to help decrease number of fatalities caused by atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



SCR146 BURGESS

2

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to direct all  
2 relevant State departments and agencies to help decrease the  
3 number of fatalities caused by atherosclerotic cardiovascular  
4 disease.

5

6 **WHEREAS**, Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the  
7 United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 21  
9 million Americans have been diagnosed with atherosclerotic  
10 cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), and are at risk of experiencing a  
11 cardiovascular event; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The Mayo Clinic states that ASCVD is linked to the  
13 buildup of cholesterol in arteries, and that risks associated with the  
14 buildup of cholesterol in arteries can be reduced by lowering the  
15 levels of a specific kind of cholesterol, namely low-density  
16 lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C); and

17 **WHEREAS**, In 2016, nearly 70 million adults in the United States had  
18 higher-than-recommended LDL-C levels; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 43.1 million Americans are currently  
20 treated with lipid-lowering therapies to manage cardiovascular risk;  
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, Only 20 percent of individuals with ASCVD who are  
23 taking statins, which are one of the leading lipid-lowering therapies,  
24 actually achieve healthy levels of LDL-C; and

25 **WHEREAS**, The total direct and indirect cost of ASCVD in the United  
26 States was \$555 billion in 2016, and, according to the American  
27 Heart Association, is projected to climb to \$1.1 trillion by 2035;  
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, as of 2019, 566,100 adults had been  
30 informed by a health care professional that they had angina, a  
31 stroke, a heart attack, or coronary heart disease, which are some of  
32 the manifestations of ASCVD; and

33 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey spends an estimated \$3.39 billion dollars on  
34 direct and indirect medical expenses for ASCVD care each year;  
35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting for the Legislature to encourage all  
37 relevant State agencies and departments to update existing policies  
38 with the goal of decreasing the rising number of fatalities caused by  
39 ASCVD; now, therefore,

40

41 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
42 General Assembly concurring):

43

44 1. a. The Legislature respectfully urges the Governor to direct  
45 each relevant department and agency within the executive branch to  
46 review and update existing policies with the goal of decreasing the  
47 rising number of fatalities caused as a result of atherosclerotic  
48 cardiovascular disease.

SCR146 BURGESS

1       b. The Legislature respectfully urges the Governor to direct  
2 each relevant department and agency within the executive branch to  
3 explore ways to collaborate with federal and national agencies and  
4 organizations to establish or expand comprehensive cardiovascular  
5 health screening programs.

6       c. The Legislature respectfully urges the Department of Health  
7 to update the State's cardiovascular plan to accelerate quality  
8 improvements in the care rendered to atherosclerotic cardiovascular  
9 disease patients in order to achieve better screening, treatment,  
10 monitoring, and improved health outcomes.

11  
12       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
13 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of  
14 the General Assembly to the Governor and to the heads of each  
15 department and agency within the executive branch.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20       This resolution urges the Governor to direct all relevant State  
21 departments and agencies to help decrease number of fatalities  
22 caused by atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD).

23       Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the  
24 United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau,  
25 approximately 21 million Americans have been diagnosed with  
26 ASCVD, and are at risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event.  
27 The Mayo Clinic states that ASCVD is linked to the buildup of  
28 cholesterol in arteries, and that risks associated with the buildup of  
29 cholesterol in arteries can be reduced by lowering the levels of a  
30 specific kind of cholesterol, namely low-density lipoprotein  
31 cholesterol (LDL-C).

32       In 2016, nearly 70 million adults in the United States had higher-  
33 than-recommended LDL-C levels. Approximately 43.1 million  
34 Americans are currently treated with lipid-lowering therapies to  
35 manage cardiovascular risk. Only 20 percent of individuals with  
36 ASCVD who are taking statins, which are one of the leading lipid-  
37 lowering therapies, actually achieve healthy levels of LDL-C.

38       The total direct and indirect cost of ASCVD in the United States  
39 was \$555 billion in 2016, and, according to the American Heart  
40 Association, is projected to climb to \$1.1 trillion by 2035. In New  
41 Jersey, as of 2019, 566,100 adults had been informed by a health  
42 care professional that they had angina, a stroke, a heart attack, or  
43 coronary heart disease, which are some of the manifestations of  
44 ASCVD. New Jersey spends an estimated \$3.39 billion dollars on  
45 direct and indirect medical expenses for ASCVD care each year.

46       Urges Governor to direct all relevant State departments and  
47 agencies to help decrease number of fatalities caused by  
48 atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.