

[First Reprint]

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 61**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

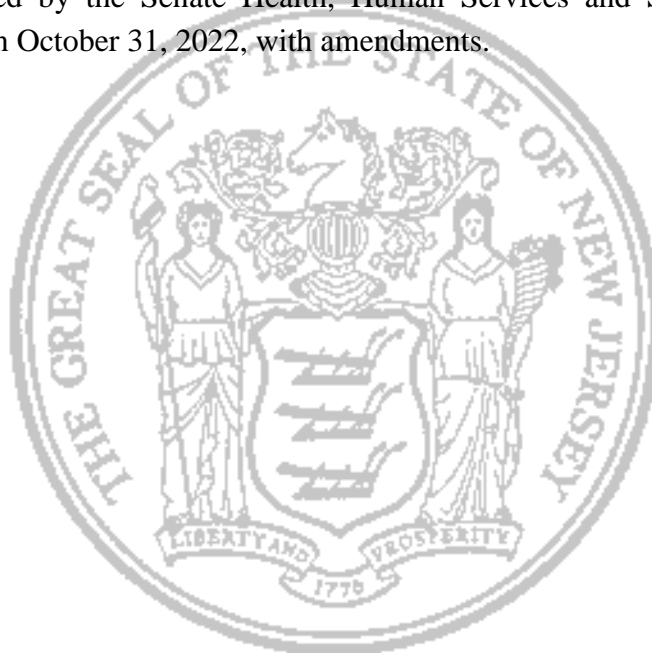
Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. President and Congress to enact legislation giving registered organ donors priority in organ allocation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on October 31, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2022)

- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the President and the
 2 Congress of the United States to enact legislation requiring that
 3 registered organ donors have priority over those who are not
 4 registered donors when donated organs are allocated to potential
 5 recipients.
 6
- 7 **WHEREAS**, Although approximately 45 percent of American adults are
 8 registered organ donors, the number of organs donated is
 9 insufficient to meet the needs of the many seriously ill children and
 10 adults across the country who require organ transplants; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, There are currently over 122,000 people waiting for organ
 12 transplants in the United States, on average, 22 people die every
 13 day while waiting for an organ transplant, and one organ donor can
 14 save as many as eight lives; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, At least 2.5 million residents of this State have registered
 16 as organ or tissue donors, but because of the fragility of transplant
 17 organs and medical exigencies, many of those who are registered
 18 organ donors will ultimately be unable to donate an organ due to
 19 illness, advanced age, or other unforeseeable circumstances that
 20 may make their organs unsuitable for transplantation; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, Among Western nations, Israel historically had the fewest
 22 registered organ donors, and many Israelis traveled abroad for
 23 organ transplant surgery; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, In 2010, the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, passed
 25 legislation that, among other things, established a three-tiered
 26 system of transplant priority as follows: first priority for transplant
 27 organs is given to living donors and their family members; second
 28 priority is given to those who have been registered as organ donors
 29 for three years or more; and third priority is given to the family
 30 members of registered donors; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Thereafter, the number of Israelis who registered to
 32 become organ donors increased significantly, with the number of
 33 Israeli living organ donors between 2011 and 2013 increasing 67
 34 percent over the preceding three-year period; and
- 35 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplant
 36 Act, which established the Organ Procurement and Transplant
 37 Network to maintain a national registry for organ match, develop
 38 policies regarding organ transplantation, and to allocate organs
 39 available for transplant to those on the waiting list in accordance
 40 with established medical criteria; and
- 41 **WHEREAS**, Policies that increase the numbers of organ donors and
 42 those registered to be organ donors provide life-saving support and
 43 hope to the many patients across the country in urgent need of an
 44 organ or tissue transplant, and to those untold numbers who will
 45 need a transplant in the future; and
- 46 **WHEREAS**, In the interest of increasing the number of registered organ

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 31, 2022.

SCR61 [1R] CODEY

3

1 and tissue donors in the United States and to address the current
2 shortage of organs and tissues available for transplantation, it is
3 fitting that those who commit to donating an organ by registering as
4 an organ donor are recognized for their sacrifice by benefitting
5 from priority consideration, to the extent medically appropriate, in
6 the event they themselves are in need of an organ transplant; now,
7 therefore,

8

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

11

12 1. The Legislature of New Jersey respectfully urges the
13 President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation
14 that gives registered organ donors priority over those who are not
15 registered organ donors, when organs are allocated to medically
16 appropriate recipients.

17

18 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
19 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
20 Secretary of the Senate to 'the President of the United States,' the
21 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the
22 Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of
23 Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this
24 State.