

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 105

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Senator BRIAN P. STACK**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators A.M.Bucco, Durr, Turner, Gopal, Greenstein, Lagana, Pou and  
Zwicker**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates January of each year as “Muslim Heritage Month” in NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

**SJR105 PENNACCHIO, STACK**

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of January of each year  
2 as “Muslim Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey.  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey takes great pride in the varied  
5 religious and cultural traditions of residents of this State and seeks to  
6 afford all people in New Jersey the opportunity to better understand,  
7 recognize, and appreciate the rich histories, cultures, and shared  
8 principles of Muslim Americans; and  
9 **WHEREAS**, Muslims are the world’s second largest religious group, with  
10 1.9 billion adherents, representing approximately 25 percent of the  
11 world’s population; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, Muslims have made significant contributions that shape our  
13 world, including notable achievements in philosophy, mathematics,  
14 astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, architecture, music,  
15 literature, and the arts; and  
16 **WHEREAS**, The 3.45 million Muslims in the United States come from  
17 diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants and  
18 native-born Americans, and represent approximately 1.1 percent of  
19 the country’s population; and  
20 **WHEREAS**, The history of Muslims in the United States dates back to  
21 before the country’s founding, originating with enslaved Africans, of  
22 whom scholars estimate as many as 30 percent were Muslim, who  
23 brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and contributed in  
24 numerous ways to the founding of the nation, including courageous  
25 and dedicated military service in every major war from the American  
26 Revolutionary War until today; and  
27 **WHEREAS**, Successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over the  
28 world have enriched American society; and  
29 **WHEREAS**, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual  
30 understanding between all faiths and identities, while upholding the  
31 values and principles of Islam and those of the United States of  
32 America; and  
33 **WHEREAS**, There are nearly 300,000 Muslim Americans in New Jersey,  
34 representing one of the largest Muslim American populations of any  
35 state in the United States, including numerous current and former  
36 elected officials dedicated to public service in their communities; and  
37 **WHEREAS**, Incidents of anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric are still  
38 prevalent in our State and educational initiatives are critical to  
39 combatting bigotry; and  
40 **WHEREAS**, The people of New Jersey benefit from the social  
41 benevolence, patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy,  
42 civic engagement, culture, and business of Muslim Americans and  
43 Muslim American organizations that operate within the State; and  
44 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey recognizes the positive impact Muslims have  
45 made, and continue to make, to the advancement of this State and the  
46 nation, and believes it is appropriate to acknowledge and promote  
47 awareness and appreciation of the invaluable contributions of  
48 Muslim Americans; now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

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4       1. The month of January of each year is designated as “Muslim  
5 Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey.

6       The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a proclamation  
7 each year calling upon the people of New Jersey, local government  
8 agencies, and interested organizations to observe this month with  
9 appropriate ceremonies, activities, and educational programs.

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11       2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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16       This Joint Resolution designates the month of January of each year  
17 as “Muslim Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey. This  
18 designation would allow the State and its residents to respectfully  
19 acknowledge and promote awareness and appreciation of Muslim  
20 Americans and recognize the many contributions of the State’s  
21 Muslim community.