

[First Reprint]

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

## No. 79

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

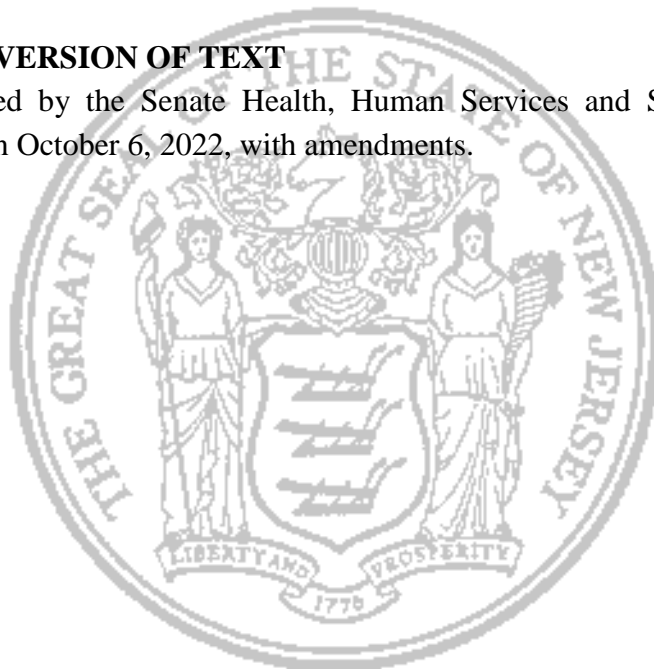
**Senators Vitale, Cruz-Perez, Cryan, Singleton, Zwicker and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permanently designates first full week in April as “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on October 6, 2022, with amendments.



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

- 1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the first full week  
2 in April as the “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.  
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Learning and development are shaped by the earliest  
5 years of a child’s life; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, The State’s future depends on the high-quality early  
7 childhood experiences provided to young children today,  
8 preparing them for school success and brighter outcomes; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education  
10 services represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future  
11 by preparing them to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and  
12 live healthier lives; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education  
14 services also makes working families more economically secure  
15 by reducing child-care costs, thereby saving taxpayer dollars that  
16 would otherwise go to child care assistance programs dedicated  
17 to low-income families; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, Working families need a mixed-delivery early  
19 childhood education system where the quality of services is not  
20 <sup>1</sup>**[comprised]** compromised<sup>1</sup> by economic factors or lack of  
21 accessibility when selecting child care arrangements that best  
22 meet the needs of their family; and
- 23 **WHEREAS**, The State’s early childhood education workforce needs  
24 skilled, qualified, and adequately compensated early childhood  
25 educators who reflect a diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural  
26 identities, and provide children and families of this State with  
27 developmentally appropriate child care services in educational  
28 settings that are both accessible and affordable; and
- 29 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey needs to provide robust  
30 subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income  
31 levels to help alleviate the true cost of high-quality early  
32 childhood education; and
- 33 **WHEREAS**, The Week of the Young Child <sup>1</sup>**[(WOYC)]**<sup>1</sup> is a week-  
34 long celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of  
35 young children and their families, recognizes the programs and  
36 services that meet those needs, and coordinates music, food, and  
37 art activities to help develop children’s math, literacy, and motor  
38 skills; and
- 39 **WHEREAS**, The National Association for the Education of Young  
40 Children (NAEYC), in partnership with state and local  
41 organizations, early childhood professionals, and families and  
42 children, are celebrating <sup>1</sup>**[the of]**<sup>1</sup> the <sup>1</sup>**[WOYC]** Week of the  
43 Young Child<sup>1</sup> April 2 through April 8, 2022; and
- 44 **WHEREAS**, By calling attention to the need for high-quality early  
45 childhood education services for all children and families within

**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:**

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 6, 2022.

1 the State of New Jersey, the NAEYC and its partners groups  
2 hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate the first week in  
4 April as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New  
5 Jersey to recognize the importance of high-quality early  
6 childhood education that is affordable and accessible and  
7 advance the child care and early childhood education  
8 professions; now, therefore,

9  
10 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
11 *State of New Jersey:*

12  
13 1. The first full week in April shall be permanently designated  
14 as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New Jersey to  
15 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education  
16 that is affordable and accessible and to advance the child care and  
17 early childhood education professions.

18  
19 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
20 proclamation recognizing the first full week in April as the “Week  
21 of the Young Child” in New Jersey and calling upon public  
22 officials, the citizens of the State, and other interested groups to  
23 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

24  
25 <sup>1</sup>**[3.** Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of  
26 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or  
27 the Secretary of the Senate to the New Jersey Association for the  
28 Education of Young Children. **]**<sup>1</sup>

29  
30 <sup>1</sup>**[4.]** 3.<sup>1</sup> This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.