

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 113

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Holzapfel and Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Governor and Attorney General to provide assistance to municipalities in response to unpermitted mass gatherings and “pop-up parties” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2023)**

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Governor and the Attorney  
2   General to provide assistance to municipalities in response to  
3   unpermitted mass gatherings and “pop-up parties” in New Jersey.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, Municipalities in New Jersey are the repositories of local  
6   police power through their authority to legislate for the general  
7   health, safety, and welfare of their residents; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, Special event permits for events such as block parties,  
9   parades, festivals, and carnivals are required by municipalities so  
10   local officials and law enforcement may accurately predict the  
11   resources and services needed to prepare for and manage crowds;  
12   and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Local communities across our State have experienced a  
14   major increase in the number of unpermitted mass gatherings, also  
15   known as “pop-up parties,” that take place on public streets,  
16   beaches, and parks; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, These unpermitted mass gatherings are organized and  
18   promoted prominently through the use of social media, where event  
19   information may suddenly appear and be quickly disseminated; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Large crowds drawn to these unpermitted mass gatherings  
21   present an exponentially greater risk of injury and damage caused  
22   by crowd-driven destructive behavior, especially when paired with  
23   youthfulness, drugs and alcohol, and lack of individual  
24   accountability; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, The inherent danger of these unpermitted mass gatherings  
26   was no more evident than on September 24, 2022, when an  
27   unsanctioned automotive event known as a “street take over”  
28   terrorized the municipality of Wildwood, resulting in multiple  
29   accounts of pedestrian injuries, thousands of dollars in property  
30   damage, and the tragic deaths of two individuals; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, Local law enforcement and municipal officials have  
32   worked together in an attempt to prevent these unpermitted mass  
33   gatherings, and to quell the disorderly and dangerous conduct that  
34   occurs at these unpermitted mass gatherings, but municipalities and  
35   local law enforcement agencies are not routinely equipped to handle  
36   large, abrupt influxes of borderline riotous crowds; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey State League of Municipalities  
38   Conference passed Resolution No. 2022-13 calling upon the  
39   Governor, the Legislature, and the Attorney General to work  
40   together and take meaningful, legislative action that addresses the  
41   issues stemming from unpermitted mass gatherings; and  
42   **WHEREAS**, Legislation has been proposed that establishes curfews,  
43   upgrades criminal penalties at unpermitted mass gatherings, funds  
44   State Police assistance to local law enforcement, and establishes a  
45   temporary social media surveillance unit; and  
46   **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to respectfully urge the  
47   Governor and the Attorney General to find permanent solutions that

1 increase municipalities' resources and enhance their responses to  
2 unpermitted mass gatherings; now, therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This House respectfully urges the Governor and the Attorney  
7 General to provide assistance to municipalities to help maintain  
8 order, protect the general public, and restore peace to communities  
9 when individuals and groups spontaneously engage in disorderly  
10 and violent behavior.

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12 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
13 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor,  
14 the Lieutenant Governor, and the Attorney General.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This resolution urges the Governor and the Attorney General to  
20 take necessary measures to bolster municipalities' responses to  
21 unpermitted mass gatherings and "pop-up parties" across the State.  
22 Municipalities require special event permits for activities such as  
23 block parties, festivals, flea markets, carnivals, concerts, and non-  
24 spontaneous public demonstrations. The permitting process may  
25 require up to several months' notice to municipalities so they can  
26 effectively predict and adequately prepare the resources and  
27 personnel necessary to manage large crowds at particular events.  
28 Additionally, the permitting process allows municipalities to deny  
29 the permit application if such an event does not seem practical.

30 Local communities in New Jersey, primarily near beaches and  
31 other hubs of community activity, have experienced a major  
32 increase in spontaneous, unpermitted mass gatherings that bring  
33 along disorderly and dangerous conduct. So called "pop-up parties"  
34 present a great risk of destructive, crowd-driven behavior and  
35 dangers that cannot be foreseen. Local law enforcement and  
36 municipal officials have worked together to prevent these  
37 unpermitted mass gatherings from taking place with varying  
38 degrees of success.

39 The New Jersey State League of Municipalities passed a  
40 resolution at its 2022 Conference calling for State assistance and  
41 solutions to the myriad issues posed by unpermitted mass  
42 gatherings. State assistance may allow municipalities to better  
43 anticipate potential unpermitted mass gatherings, hold organizers  
44 and attendees who incite hazards accountable for their misdeeds,  
45 and dissuade future pop-up gatherings.