

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 56

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

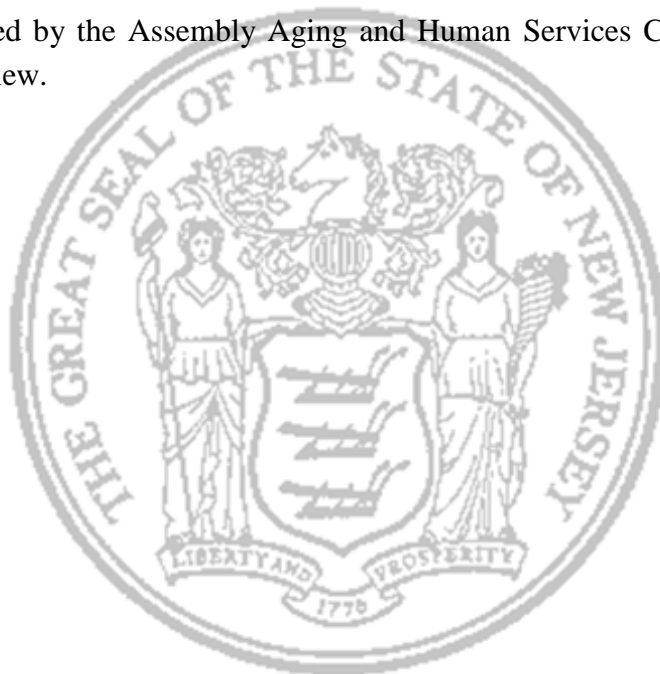
Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Murphy, Speight and Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Older Americans Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/6/2024)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of May of each year
2 as “Older Americans Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In 2020, there were more than 55 million individuals who
5 were 65 years of age or older in the United States, including 1.5
6 million individuals in the State of New Jersey, and those
7 individuals accounted for approximately 17 percent of the national
8 and State population; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Older Americans have made immeasurable contributions
10 to the social, civic, and economic fabric of this State and country;
11 and
12 **WHEREAS**, The contributions and sacrifices that older Americans have
13 made is no more apparent than in the example of our older veterans,
14 whose strength and resilience throughout the twentieth and early
15 twenty-first century safeguarded the nation’s continued liberty and
16 prosperity; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Older Americans continue to play an important role in
18 society by contributing their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and
19 accomplishments through vital community roles such as volunteer
20 work, the arts, cultural activities, civic engagement, and the
21 workforce; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Fewer workers are transitioning directly from full-time
23 work to full-time retirement, with some taking part-time positions
24 with their current or new employers and others becoming self-
25 employed, both to help maintain the sense of purpose associated
26 with employment and to remain financially flexible in an uncertain
27 economy; and
28 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the percentage of older Americans in the
29 workforce increased from 18.1 percent in 2020 to 37 percent in
30 2022, the largest workforce participation rate increase in the
31 country; and
32 **WHEREAS**, According to the American Associated of Retired Persons,
33 nearly 80 percent of workers aged 40 to 65 have experienced age
34 discrimination in the workplace, with nearly all workers polled
35 believing laws to combat age discrimination should be stronger; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The coronavirus pandemic has posed unique challenges for
37 older Americans, as the risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-
38 19 increases with age; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Due to their vulnerability to severe illness from COVID-
40 19, many older Americans have isolated from family members and
41 friends, experienced challenges with economic security, and faced
42 backlash from some who have ostracized older Americans for
43 taking precautionary measures during the pandemic; and
44 **WHEREAS**, The many challenges facing older Americans will remain
45 at the forefront of challenges facing the nation, as the life
46 expectancy of Americans has increased since 1960 from 70.1 years
47 to 78.9 years, and is expected to further increase to 85.3 years by
48 2060; and

AJR56 ATKINS, CARTER

3

1 **WHEREAS**, The month of May was first nationally designated as
2 “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963, and in 1980, the designation was
3 changed to “Older Americans Month,” and since that time the
4 national celebration of the month of May as “Older Americans
5 Month” has become a tradition; and

6 **WHEREAS**, As a State, we need to continue our commitment to the
7 goal of ensuring that older Americans in New Jersey enjoy active,
8 productive, and healthy lives, and do so safely and with dignity; and

9 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the State of New Jersey to
10 recognize and celebrate the contributions of older Americans and
11 rededicate our efforts to better serve the older Americans of New
12 Jersey; now, therefore,

13

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
15 *State of New Jersey:*

16

17 1. The month of May of each year is designated as “Older
18 Americans Month” in the State of New Jersey to honor and
19 celebrate the important contributions of older individuals, publicly
20 recognize their continued value via vital roles in our communities,
21 and to rededicate our efforts to ensuring older Americans lead
22 healthy, productive, and purposeful lives.

23

24 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
25 proclamation recognizing May as “Older Americans Month” and
26 calling upon public officials and the residents of New Jersey to
27 observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

28

29 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.