

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 137

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman PAUL KANITRA**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON**

**District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress and President of United States to enact “Laken Riley Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/10/2024)

AR137 MCGUCKIN, KANITRA

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Congress and the President of  
2 the United States to enact the “Laken Riley Act.”

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4 **WHEREAS**, In February 2024, law enforcement officers located the  
5 body of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley in a wooded area  
6 on the University of Georgia campus in Athens; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Law enforcement determined the cause of death to be  
8 homicide and charged suspect Jose Antonio Ibarra with kidnapping  
9 and murder, among other charges; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ibarra, a Venezuelan migrant, crossed into the United  
11 States illegally and was detained by authorities but was released on  
12 parole pending a determination in his case; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Prior to being taken into custody for the murder of Laken  
14 Riley, Ibarra had been arrested in New York on charges of driving a  
15 scooter without a license and in Georgia, he was arrested in  
16 connection with a shoplifting case; however, when officials  
17 searched their databases they found no indication that he should be  
18 detained; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The tragic murder of Laken Riley is a stark example of the  
20 devastating consequences that can follow from lax immigration  
21 policies; and

22 **WHEREAS**, In response to this horrific crime, the United States House  
23 of Representatives passed the “Laken Riley Act,” which requires  
24 that migrants who enter the country illegally and are accused of  
25 theft be taken into federal custody; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The “Laken Riley Act” provides local officials with the  
27 power to protect members of the community by requiring the  
28 detention of migrants who commit theft or burglary, which, in this  
29 case, would have prevented the murder of Laken Riley; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey recognizes the importance of  
31 maintaining public safety and the rule of law; and

32 **WHEREAS**, The passage of the “Laken Riley Act” by the United States  
33 Congress and its enactment into law by the President would  
34 represent a significant step towards enhancing public safety across  
35 the country and the State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

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37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
38 *Jersey:*

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40 1. The United States Congress and the President of the United  
41 States are respectfully urged to enact the “Laken Riley Act.”

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43 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
44 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk  
45 thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States,

1 the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the  
2 Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of  
3 Representatives, and to every member of Congress elected from this  
4 State.

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STATEMENT

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9 This resolution urges the United States Congress and the  
10 President of the United States to enact the “Laken Riley Act,”  
11 which requires that migrants who enter the country illegally and are  
12 accused of theft be taken into federal custody.

13 The “Laken Riley Act” was introduced in response to the tragic  
14 murder of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley. Jose Antonio  
15 Ibarra, a Venezuelan migrant, was charged with the crime. The  
16 death of Laken Riley is a stark example of the devastating  
17 consequences that can result from lax immigration policies. Before  
18 being taken into custody for murder, Ibarra had been arrested for  
19 shoplifting. The “Laken Riley Act” would have prevented Riley’s  
20 murder by requiring that migrants who enter the country illegally  
21 and are accused of theft be taken into federal custody.

22 The passage of the “Laken Riley Act” by the United States  
23 Congress and its enactment into law by the President would  
24 represent a significant step towards enhancing public safety across  
25 the country and the State of New Jersey.