

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 138

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman GARNET R. HALL**

**District 28 (Essex and Union)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Quijano, Assemblymen Guardian, Karabinchak,  
Assemblywomen Lopez, Donlon, Sumter, Murphy, Assemblymen Miller,  
Conaway, Assemblywomen Drulis, Bagolie, Lampitt, Ramirez, Swain,  
Assemblyman Tully and Assemblywoman Park**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates June 2024 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

AR138 PETERPAUL, HALL

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION designating June 2024 as LGBTQIA+  
2 Pride Month in New Jersey.

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4 WHEREAS, New Jersey is committed to embracing the value and  
5 dignity of each person who resides in this State, regardless of  
6 age, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, gender  
7 expression, or sexual orientation; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
9 queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and non-binary (LGBTQIA+)  
10 continue to make valuable contributions to every aspect of life in  
11 New Jersey, including academics, architecture, art, business,  
12 culture, economic development, education, fashion, film,  
13 government, health, law, music, politics, research, science, sports,  
14 and technology; and

15 WHEREAS, Pride Month was first formally recognized by the federal  
16 government on June 11, 1999 by President Clinton, recognizing  
17 June as “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.” On June 1, 2009,  
18 President Barack H. Obama declared June “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
19 and Transgender Pride Month.” On May 31, 2023 President Biden  
20 issued a proclamation declaring June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
21 Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month; and

22 WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ individuals have historically been persecuted  
23 by discriminatory laws and policies that denied access to rights,  
24 programs, benefits, and services otherwise guaranteed to the  
25 general population; and

26 WHEREAS, It is commonly accepted that the protests that occurred  
27 outside the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969  
28 following a police raid represented the turning point in the  
29 movement for LGBTQIA+ civil rights; and

30 WHEREAS, In the succeeding decades, generations of LGBTQIA+  
31 individuals have worked tirelessly to achieve lasting gains in  
32 LGBTQIA+ equality at the local, state, and federal levels, including  
33 gaining the right to marriage equality and the corresponding spousal  
34 benefits, establishing laws guaranteeing equality in housing and  
35 employment, securing equality in access to education and health  
36 care, winning the right to serve openly in the Armed Forces, and  
37 pushing for other gains in equality at all levels of society; and

38 WHEREAS, Members of the LGBTQIA+ community are  
39 disproportionately affected by violence and hate crimes; and

40 WHEREAS, The Human Rights Campaign issued a National State of  
41 Emergency on June 6, 2023, citing an unprecedented and dangerous  
42 spike in anti-LBGTQIA+ legislative actions across the United  
43 States; and

44 WHEREAS, The Human Rights Campaign and the American Civil  
45 Liberties Union are currently tracking over 400 state bills that  
46 attack the LGBTQIA+ community in regards to healthcare  
47 access, free speech and expression, and the weakening of civil  
48 rights; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The mere introduction of such legislation legitimizes  
2 and amplifies anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and violence and has a  
3 significant impact on LGBTQIA+ youth; and  
4 **WHEREAS**, Suicide is the second leading cause of death among  
5 young people aged 10 to 14, and the third leading cause of death  
6 among 15-24 year olds. LGBTQIA+ young people are more than  
7 four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, According to the Trevor Project, 60 percent of  
9 LGBTQIA+ young people report that they had experienced  
10 discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender  
11 identity at least once in their lifetime; and  
12 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey state law addresses discrimination against the  
13 LGBTQIA+ community and will continue to be committed to the  
14 equality, dignity, and safety of the LGBTQIA+ community; and  
15 **WHEREAS**, June has long been celebrated in many places worldwide  
16 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, in recognition of both the gains in  
17 LGBTQIA+ equality that have been realized since June 1969, as  
18 well as in recognition of the ongoing struggle to advance civil,  
19 societal, and human rights for the LGBTQIA+ community; and  
20 **WHEREAS**, Moreover, LGBTQIA+ Pride Month is a celebration of  
21 visibility and acknowledges the contributions LGBTQIA+  
22 individuals have made and continue to make to strengthen the  
23 fabric of American society, as well as a celebration of authenticity,  
24 acceptance, inclusion, and love; and  
25 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore appropriate to designate June 2024 as  
26 LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in New Jersey, in recognition of the  
27 achievements, contributions, struggles, and humanity of  
28 LGBTQIA+ individuals; now, therefore,

29  
30 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
31 Jersey:

32  
33 1. June 2024 is designated as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in New  
34 Jersey. Public officials and the citizens of this State are respectfully  
35 urged to commemorate LGBTQIA+ Pride Month with appropriate  
36 activities.

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39 **STATEMENT**

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41 This Assembly resolution designates June 2024 as LGBTQIA+  
42 Pride Month in New Jersey, in recognition of the achievements,  
43 contributions, struggles, and humanity of lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
44 transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, non-binary, and  
45 pansexual (LGBTQIA+) individuals. Public officials and citizens  
46 of New Jersey are respectfully urged to commemorate LGBTQIA+  
47 Pride Month 2024 with appropriate activities.