

P.L. 2025, Joint Resolution No. 14, *approved January 12, 2026*
Senate Joint Resolution, No. 70

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the last weekend in October as
2 “Honor Your Hometown Weekend.”
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4 **WHEREAS**, The cornerstone of the strength of the State and nation lies
5 in the towns, small and large, that make them up; and
6 **WHEREAS**, The common experiences of those growing up in a
7 hometown remains an integral part of their lives, regardless of the
8 corner of the globe where they may reside; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Hometowns are a reminder that shared commonalities are
10 far greater and more important than anything that may divide
11 people; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The essence of democracy is exhibited in the towns, cities,
13 and neighborhoods where people work together to build and sustain
14 the cultural, philanthropic, local government, small business,
15 religious, athletic, and volunteer enterprises that enrich
16 communities and the nation; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Formally acknowledging the essential power of
18 hometowns will help people overcome divisions, renew friendships,
19 and enhance civil discourse; and
20 **WHEREAS**, In the spirit of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, which have
21 been celebrated State holidays since 1944, there should be a
22 permanent celebration and more formal recognition of hometowns
23 as one of the greatest unifying forces for communities in New
24 Jersey; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Legendary New Jersey native, Bruce Springsteen, best
26 captured the value of hometowns when he said of Freehold,
27 “everything I’ve learned of deep importance, I learned in this
28 town;” and
29 **WHEREAS**, Every resident, community, business, civic institution, and
30 other organization should have the opportunity to celebrate
31 annually the unique attributes and history of their hometown; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The State and the nation should formally honor the
33 positive impact of the hometowns that shape the lives of all; now,
34 therefore,
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36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
37 *State of New Jersey:*
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39 1. The last weekend in October of each year is designated as
40 “Honor Your Hometown Weekend” in New Jersey to recognize and
41 appreciate the towns, cities, communities, and neighborhoods that

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1 have shaped the bonds between people, with the State, and with the
2 nation.

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4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation calling upon public officials and all citizens of this
6 State to observe “Honor Your Hometown Weekend” with
7 appropriate programs and activities and to, until so designated, call
8 upon Congress and the President of the United States to designate a
9 national weekend of celebration to honor America’s hometowns for
10 the reasons set forth in this resolution.

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12 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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15 **STATEMENT**

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17 This joint resolution designates the last weekend in October
18 every year as “Honor Your Hometown Weekend” in New Jersey to
19 recognize and appreciate the towns, cities, communities, and
20 neighborhoods that have shaped the bonds between people, with the
21 State, and with the nation.

22 The resolution respectfully requests the Governor to annually
23 issue a proclamation and to call upon public officials and all
24 citizens of the State to observe “Honor Your Hometown Weekend”
25 with appropriate programs and activities. The resolution also
26 respectfully requests the Governor to, until so designated, call upon
27 Congress and the President of the United States to designate a
28 national weekend of celebration to honor America’s hometowns for
29 the reasons set forth in this resolution.

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34 Designates last weekend in October as “Honor Your Hometown
35 Weekend.”