

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the last week in April of each year as “Reentry Week.”

WHEREAS, The vast majority of individuals currently serving sentences in State and county correctional facilities will transition into communities throughout the State when they are released from incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated individuals face numerous challenges that include finding work, housing, healthcare, addiction treatment, mental health treatment, and transportation, in addition to reuniting with family, which can lead to recidivism and health, safety, and social concerns; and

WHEREAS, Federal, State, and local leaders recognize these challenges and are working on policies and programs focused on removing the barriers that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from pursuing healthy and productive lives when they return to communities after serving time in correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Reentry Services Commission (RSC) is charged with examining issues related to prisoner reentry, including, but not limited to, identifying specific services that are necessary for successful reentry, identifying current obstacles to inmates receiving these services, and proposing solutions to remove these obstacles; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the RSC released a report that offered 100 practical action steps to improve the lives of those being released from prison, with a focus on addiction treatment, healthcare, legal issues, and employment training; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Reentry Services for Women (CRSW) is charged with examining issues related to women prisoner reentry including, but not limited to, identifying physical and psychological hardships endured while incarcerated that may impede successful reentry, identifying specific services that are necessary for successful reentry, identifying current obstacles to female prisoners receiving these services, and proposing solutions to remove these obstacles; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, the CRSW released a report that offered more than 70 recommendations for how to improve the lives of women being released from incarceration with a focus on employment, healthcare, housing, family reunification, and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Local reentry organizations, community and faith-based organizations, and other organizations across New Jersey play key roles in providing resources for formerly incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, Reentry Week provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about the challenges that formerly incarcerated individuals face and to encourage organizations, including State agencies, to support efforts to provide assistance and resources to formerly incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, Public officials and citizens of this State are encouraged to observe Reentry Week with appropriate activities and programs; now, therefore,

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

C.36:2-498 “Reentry Week”, last week of April.

1. The last week of April of each year is designated as “Reentry Week” to raise public awareness about the challenges that formerly incarcerated individuals face and to encourage organizations, including State agencies, to support efforts to provide assistance and resources to formerly incarcerated individuals.

C.36:2-499 Annual proclamation.

2. The Governor may issue each year a proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 12, 2026.