

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 197

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Declares last Wednesday of October of each year as “Vocational Training Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** declaring the last Wednesday in October of
2 each year as “Vocational Training Day” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Vocational training, also known as career and technical
5 education, provides hands-on instruction, laboratory experience,
6 and industry-recognized credentials that prepare students for
7 skilled occupations, and many such programs can be completed
8 in a matter of months rather than years; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Vocational training programs in this State prepare
10 students for careers in automotive, aviation, diesel, and collision
11 repair technology; welding and precision machining; heating,
12 ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration; electrical and
13 electronic systems technology; computer networking,
14 cybersecurity, and information technology; the skilled health
15 sciences, including medical assisting, dental assisting, and
16 practical nursing; business administration, accounting, and
17 office management; and the culinary arts, hotel and restaurant
18 management, and hospitality and tourism; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Tens of thousands of vocational training program
20 graduates are employed in these occupations, which are essential
21 to the daily functioning of the State's economy and to the well-
22 being of its residents, helping to keep vehicles and equipment
23 running, buildings heated and cooled, homes and businesses
24 wired, networks secured, patients cared for, and guests
25 welcomed and served; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Employers throughout New Jersey report persistent
27 shortages of skilled technicians, tradespeople, and other
28 credentialed workers, and these unfilled positions constrain
29 economic growth, raise costs for consumers, and delay critical
30 infrastructure, construction, transportation, health care, and
31 hospitality services; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Vocational training offers a direct, affordable, and
33 proven pathway to a rewarding career by equipping students with
34 robust skills that are resilient in the face of economic change and
35 allowing students to enter the workforce and begin earning
36 wages sooner; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The credentials and licensures earned through
38 vocational training are portable and durable, and graduates of
39 these programs frequently advance into supervisory and
40 management roles, become instructors who train the next
41 generation of skilled workers, or launch small businesses of their
42 own that employ other New Jersey residents; and

43 **WHEREAS**, Notwithstanding these opportunities, many students,
44 parents, and school counselors remain unaware of the vocational
45 pathways available to them, and outdated perceptions continue to
46 undervalue skilled careers and the institutions that prepare
47 students to enter them; and

1 WHEREAS, Declaring the last Wednesday in October of each year as
2 “Vocational Training Day” in New Jersey will bring greater
3 attention to the value of vocational training, honor the students,
4 instructors, and employers who sustain it, and encourage more
5 residents of this State to consider the many rewarding careers
6 that vocational training makes possible; now, therefore,
7

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
9 *State of New Jersey:*
10

11 1. The last Wednesday in October of each year is designated as
12 “Vocational Training Day” in New Jersey to acknowledge the value
13 of vocational training, honor the students, instructors, and
14 employers who sustain it, and encourage more residents of this
15 State to consider the many rewarding careers that vocational
16 training makes possible.
17

18 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue a
19 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this
20 State to observe “Vocational Training Day” with appropriate
21 activities and programs.
22

23 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.
24
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26 STATEMENT

27

28 This resolution designates the last Wednesday in October of each
29 year as “Vocational Training Day” in New Jersey. Vocational
30 training, also known as career and technical education, prepares
31 students for skilled occupations through hands-on instruction and
32 industry-recognized credentials, often in a matter of months rather
33 than years.

34 Vocational programs in this State train students for careers in
35 automotive, diesel, and collision repair technology; welding and
36 precision machining; heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and
37 refrigeration; electrical and electronic systems technology;
38 computer networking, cybersecurity, and information technology;
39 the skilled health sciences; business administration, accounting, and
40 office management; and the culinary arts, hotel and restaurant
41 management, and hospitality and tourism. These pathways allow
42 students to enter the workforce sooner and with substantially less
43 debt than a four-year degree requires, while addressing persistent
44 shortages of skilled workers reported by employers across the State.
45 Designating the last Wednesday in October as “Vocational Training
46 Day” will raise awareness of these opportunities and honor the
47 students, instructors, and employers who sustain them.