

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 198

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of September of each year as “Sepsis Awareness Month” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of September of each
2 year as “Sepsis Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Sepsis is a life-threatening response to infection which
5 occurs when the body’s reaction to the infection triggers an atypical
6 response, causing tissue damage, organ failure, amputations,
7 cognitive difficulties, and death. Severely restricted blood flow
8 from sepsis can lead to septic shock, requiring immediate diagnosis
9 and treatment to prevent death; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Certain population groups are more vulnerable to
11 developing sepsis, such as young children, elderly adults,
12 individuals with chronic health conditions, those with compromised
13 immune systems, and those facing systemic health care disparities;
14 and
15 **WHEREAS**, According to the Sepsis Alliance, a national advocacy
16 organization, sepsis occurs in some 1.7 million people annually,
17 resulting in roughly 350,000 adult deaths nationwide; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Each year more than 75,000 children in the United States
19 develop severe sepsis, and 6,800 of these children die; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Nearly 2,000 New Jersey residents die each year due to
21 septicemia and it is the State’s seventh leading cause of death; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Survivors of sepsis often face harsh complications. On
23 average, sepsis survivors have a shortened life expectancy, are more
24 likely to suffer from an impaired quality of life, and often
25 experience after-effects such as amputations (14,000 per year in the
26 United States) and post-sepsis syndrome; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Despite recent declines, New Jersey has long had a sepsis
28 mortality rate that exceeds the national average of roughly 10
29 deaths for each 100,000 Americans. In 2023, New Jersey reported
30 a rate of 16 deaths out of 100,000; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Communities that have historically lacked access to high-
32 quality health care experience a disproportionate burden of sepsis-
33 related complications; and
34 **WHEREAS**, According to State health data, due to racial disparities, the
35 rate of sepsis for Black residents is 25 per 100,000, more than
36 double the rate for white New Jerseyans; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Sepsis is the number one cost of hospitalization and the
38 second-leading cause of pregnancy-related mortality in the United
39 States, and the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance is
40 steadily increasing the frequency of sepsis cases; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Despite the severe danger and widespread occurrence of
42 this condition, a survey conducted by the Sepsis Alliance found that
43 less than 15 percent of the adults living in the United States can
44 identify the symptoms of sepsis; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Increasing public awareness of sepsis can help ensure New
46 Jerseyans seek appropriate medical care, are promptly diagnosed,
47 and receive therapeutic treatments that can save lives and

1 significantly improve the outcomes for, and the quality of life of,
2 sepsis survivors; now, therefore,

3

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

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7 1. The month of September of each year shall be designated as
8 “Sepsis Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey to increase
9 public awareness of sepsis and help ensure that New Jerseyans with
10 this serious condition seek appropriate medical care, are promptly
11 diagnosed, and receive therapeutic treatments that can save lives
12 and significantly improve the outcomes for, and the quality of life
13 of, sepsis survivors.

14

15 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
16 proclamation recognizing September of each year as “Sepsis
17 Awareness Month” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials
18 and the citizens of this State to observe the day with appropriate
19 activities and programs.

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21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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24 STATEMENT

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26 This joint resolution designates September of each year as
27 “Sepsis Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey.

28 Sepsis is a life-threatening response to infection which occurs
29 when the body’s reaction to the infection triggers an atypical
30 response, causing tissue damage, organ failure, amputations,
31 cognitive difficulties, and death. Severely restricted blood flow
32 from sepsis can lead to septic shock, requiring immediate diagnosis
33 and treatment to prevent death.

34 Certain population groups are more vulnerable to developing
35 sepsis, such as young children, elderly adults, individuals with
36 chronic health conditions, those with compromised immune
37 systems, and those facing systemic health care disparities.
38 According to State health data, due to racial disparities, the rate of
39 sepsis for Black residents is 25 per 100,000, more than double the
40 rate for white New Jerseyans.

41 Sepsis is the number one cost of hospitalization and the second-
42 leading cause of pregnancy-related mortality in the United States,
43 and the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance is steadily
44 increasing the frequency of sepsis cases.

45 Therefore, it is fitting to designate September of each year as
46 “Sepsis Awareness Month” in New Jersey to increase public
47 awareness of sepsis and help ensure that New Jerseyans with this
48 serious condition seek appropriate medical care, are promptly

- 1 diagnosed, and receive therapeutic treatments that can save lives
- 2 and significantly improve the outcomes for, and the quality of life
- 3 of, sepsis survivors.