

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 158

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator LATHAM TIVER

District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of September each year as “Deaf Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of September each
2 year as “Deaf Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Approximately one out of every 1,000 children in the
5 United States is born with profound hearing loss; and

6 **WHEREAS**, There are approximately 850,000 New Jersey residents
7 with varying degrees of hearing loss ranging from mild to
8 profound, including individuals who are born deaf and people
9 who encounter late-stage hearing loss; and

10 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to many world-class institutions
11 and programs for people who are deaf, including the Union
12 Street School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Hackensack,
13 the Bruce Street School for the Deaf in Newark, and the Marie
14 Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Trenton; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Linda Bove, famous for her role as “Linda the
16 Librarian” on Sesame Street is a New Jersey native, having been
17 born in Garfield and educated at the Marie Katzenbach School;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, There are many misconceptions about being deaf and
20 the challenges people who are deaf face in their everyday lives,
21 which can only be dispelled through greater public education and
22 awareness; and

23 **WHEREAS**, People who are deaf communicate using sign language,
24 which is a fully fledged natural language with its own
25 morphology, syntax, and structure; and

26 **WHEREAS**, People who are deaf can work in almost any job and the
27 main barriers to employment arise from inaccessible work
28 environments rather than an inability to hear; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Much work remains to be done to promote the rights of
30 people who are deaf throughout the world, including access to
31 education, access to information and services, and the prevalence
32 of sign language; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Governments around the world have designated
34 September as “Deaf Awareness Month,” in order to
35 commemorate the first World Congress of the World Federation
36 of the Deaf, which took place in September 1951; and

37 **WHEREAS**, It is proper and fitting for the State of New Jersey to
38 celebrate the culture, heritage, and language of people who are
39 deaf and to increase public awareness of deaf issues by
40 designating the month of September as “Deaf Awareness Month”
41 in New Jersey; now, therefore,

42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
44 *of New Jersey:*

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46 1. In order to celebrate the culture, heritage, and language of
47 people who are deaf, and to increase public awareness of deaf
48 issues:

SJR158 TIVER

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1 a. The month of September each year is designated as “Deaf
2 Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

b. The last full week of September each year is designated as “Deaf Awareness Week” in New Jersey.

5 c. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
6 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of the
7 State to observe “Deaf Awareness Month” and “Deaf Awareness
8 Week” with appropriate activities and programs.

10 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

15 This resolution designates the month of September as “Deaf
16 Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

17 There are approximately 850,000 New Jersey residents with
18 varying degrees of hearing loss ranging from mild to profound,
19 including individuals who are born deaf and people who encounter
20 late-stage hearing loss. New Jersey is also home to many world-class
21 institutions and programs for people who are deaf, including the Union
22 Street School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Hackensack, the
23 Bruce Street School for the Deaf in Newark, and the Marie
24 Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Trenton.

There are many misconceptions about being deaf and the challenges people who are deaf face in their everyday lives, which can only be dispelled through greater public education and awareness. Furthermore, much work remains to be done to promote the rights of people who are deaf throughout the world, including access to education, access to information and services, and the prevalence of sign language.

Governments around the world have designated September as “Deaf Awareness Month,” in order to commemorate the first World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which took place in September 1951.