

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 163

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates June 10 of each year as “Science History Day” in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating June 10 of each year as
2 “Science History Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The emergence of modern scientific thoughts, including
5 the use of scientific experimentation and quantitative measures,
6 fundamentally altered how humanity investigates and understands
7 the natural world, thus allowing for a more systematic accumulation
8 and transmission of knowledge; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Centuries of scientific progress led to the Industrial
10 Revolution, the Green Revolution, and the development of modern
11 medicine, resulting in a rapid and sustained improvement in quality
12 of life for much of the world; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Science is an iterative and collective process that yields
14 discoveries only after many years of experiments and observations
15 by a community of dedicated scientists trained to conduct research
16 in respective disciplines; and
17 **WHEREAS**, With the devastating reduction in funding and the
18 diminishing capacity of federal science agencies, the American
19 scientific community is losing its lead at a moment when humanity
20 is confronted by climate change, consequent resurgence of
21 communicable diseases, and widening socioeconomic inequality;
22 and
23 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long history as a center of scientific
24 innovation and knowledge production that welcomes scientists from
25 all over the globe; and
26 **WHEREAS**, From the Institute for Advanced Study, which served as a
27 refuge for many German scientists, including Albert Einstein,
28 fleeing Nazi persecution, to Menlo Park, where Thomas Edison
29 established the first industrial laboratory for creation and
30 application of new technologies, New Jersey has always led the
31 nation in science; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Today, New Jersey’s top industries depend on a continued
33 support for all scientific endeavors, such as pharmaceuticals, life
34 sciences, computer systems design, and engineering; and
35 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the State to commemorate the
36 centuries of scientific progress that has improved the lives of
37 billions and highlight the importance of continued support for the
38 New Jersey scientific community in the face of unprecedented
39 challenges; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Benjamin Franklin was an accomplished writer, publisher,
41 printer, inventor, and civil servant who also possessed one of the
42 most preeminent scientific minds in Colonial America; and
43 **WHEREAS**, June 10, 1752 is the widely cited date when Franklin
44 conducted an experiment in which he attached a wire to a kite to act
45 as a lightning rod as well as a hemp string and a metal key to the
46 kite to act as an electrical conductor; and
47 **WHEREAS**, When Franklin flew the kite in a thunderstorm, he noticed
48 loose threads of the hemp string starting to stand, and when he

1 moved his finger near the key, he felt the spark, thus proving that
2 lightning consists of electricity and that electricity can be harnessed
3 as an energy source; and

4 **WHEREAS**, This experiment marks the nascence of the American
5 scientific community, which makes June 10 an appropriate date to
6 celebrate scientists and their contributions throughout history; now,
7 therefore,

8

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

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12 1. June 10 of each year shall be designated as “Science History
13 Day” in the State of New Jersey, in recognition of the scientists
14 throughout history whose discoveries brought about revolutionary
15 changes for the betterment of humanity as well as the importance of
16 continued support for the New Jersey scientific community.

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

22

23 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill designates June 10th of each year as “Science History
29 Day” in New Jersey.

30 The emergence of modern scientific thoughts, including the use
31 of scientific experimentation and quantitative measures,
32 fundamentally altered how humanity investigates and understands
33 the natural world, thus allowing for a more systematic accumulation
34 and transmission of knowledge. Centuries of scientific progress led
35 to the Industrial Revolution, the Green Revolution, and the
36 development of modern medicine, resulting in a rapid and sustained
37 improvement in quality of life for much of the world.

38 Science is an iterative and collective process that yields
39 discoveries only after many years of experiments and observations
40 by a community of dedicated scientists trained to conduct research
41 in respective disciplines. With the devastating reduction in funding
42 and the diminishing capacity of federal science agencies, the
43 American scientific community is losing its lead at a moment when
44 humanity is confronted by climate change, consequent resurgence
45 of communicable diseases, and widening socioeconomic inequality.

46 New Jersey has a long history as a center of scientific innovation
47 and knowledge production that welcomes scientists from all over
48 the globe. Examples include the Institute for Advanced Study,

1 which served as a refuge for many German scientists, including
2 Albert Einstein, fleeing Nazi persecution and Menlo Park, where
3 Thomas Edison established the first industrial laboratory for
4 creation and application of new technologies. Today, New Jersey's
5 top industries include those that depend on a continued support for
6 all scientific endeavors, such as pharmaceuticals, life sciences,
7 computer systems design, and engineering. It is therefore fitting
8 and proper for the State to commemorate the centuries of scientific
9 progress that has improved the lives of billions and highlight the
10 importance of continued support for the New Jersey scientific
11 community in the face of unprecedented challenges.

12 Benjamin Franklin was an accomplished writer, publisher,
13 printer, inventor, and civil servant who also possessed one of the
14 most preeminent scientific minds in Colonial America. On June 10,
15 1752, Franklin conducted an experiment in which he attached a
16 wire to a kite to act as a lightning rod as well as a hemp string and a
17 metal key to the kite to act as an electrical conductor. When
18 Franklin flew the kite in a thunderstorm, he noticed loose threads of
19 the hemp string starting to stand, and when he moved his finger
20 near the key, he felt the spark, thus proving that lightning consists
21 of electricity and that electricity can be harnessed as an energy
22 source. This experiment marks the nascence of the American
23 scientific community, which makes June 10 an appropriate date to
24 celebrate scientists and their contributions throughout history.