

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 86

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblymen Moen, Conaway, Sampson,

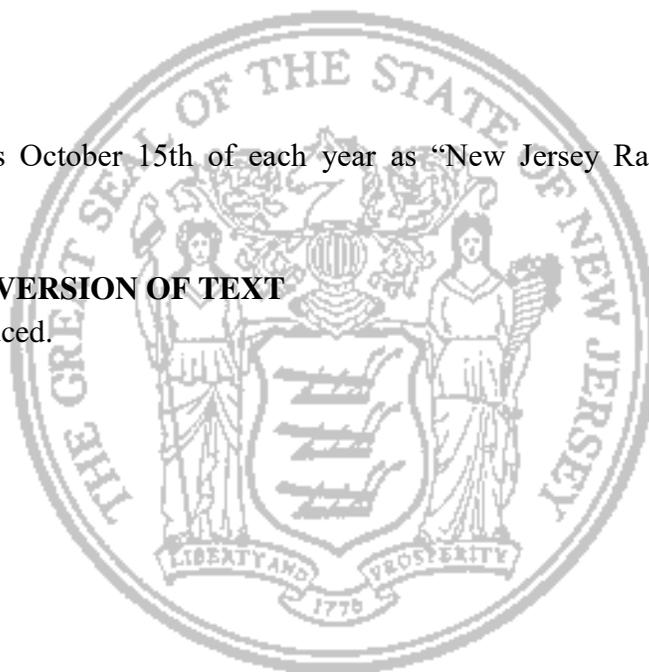
Assemblywoman Lopez and Assemblyman Spearman

SYNOPSIS

Designates October 15th of each year as “New Jersey Railroad Workers Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/3/2022)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October 15th of each year as
2 “New Jersey Railroad Workers Day.”

3

4 **WHEREAS**, By allowing for the efficient transportation of consumer
5 goods and commuters, railroads continue to serve a crucial, and
6 often overlooked, role in connecting and sustaining the modern,
7 globalized economy; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Without the continuous operations of the freight railroad
9 sector, global supply chains can easily become disrupted, thereby
10 increasing consumer prices, reducing access to necessary goods and
11 services, and diminishing standards of living; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The passenger railroad sector also plays a similarly
13 important role in ensuring that the workforce can affordably and
14 reliably commute to their places of employment, which service is
15 vital for businesses located inside and outside of this State; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The operations of freight and passenger railroads would
17 not be possible without the tireless efforts of railroad workers, who
18 work long hours to ensure that freight containers are properly
19 handled and passenger trains are safely operated; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Due to the constant demand for freight and passenger rail
21 service, many railroad workers are often forced to work irregular
22 shifts, sacrificing time away from their friends and family; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Railroad workers have also shown a willingness to work in
24 dangerous conditions during times of crisis to ensure that the public
25 receives crucial freight and passenger rail services; and

26 **WHEREAS**, During the COVID-19 pandemic, railroad workers served
27 as frontline workers who, despite the dangers of working in close
28 proximity to one another, worked to alleviate supply chain backlogs
29 and transport essential healthcare workers; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Without the contributions of railroad workers, there is little
31 doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic would have unleashed even
32 more harm on the physical and economic well-being of the people
33 of this State; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Moreover, in the midst of Russia’s recent invasion of
35 Ukraine, New Jersey’s brother and sister railroad workers in the
36 Ukraine have also been indispensable in shuttling innocent civilians
37 to safety and transporting supplies to the front lines of defense; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Whether during times of peace or times of crisis, railroad
39 workers provide an invaluable service for the people of this State,
40 and others throughout the world, by ensuring that the modern,
41 globalized economy continues to function; now, therefore,

42

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

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46 1. October 15th of each year is designated as “New Jersey
47 Railroad Workers Day” in the State of New Jersey to honor and

1 celebrate the important contributions of railroad workers in
2 supporting the State's economy.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation designating October 15th as "New Jersey Railroad
6 Workers Day" and shall call upon the public officials and citizens
7 of this State to observe the day with appropriate activities and
8 programs.

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10 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This joint resolution designates October 15th of each year as
16 "New Jersey Railroad Workers Day."

17 By allowing for the efficient transportation of consumer goods
18 and commuters, railroads continue to serve a crucial, and often
19 overlooked, role in connecting and sustaining the modern,
20 globalized economy. Without the continuous operations of the
21 freight railroad sector, global supply chains can easily become
22 disrupted, thereby increasing consumer prices and reducing access
23 to necessary goods and services. The passenger railroad sector also
24 plays a similarly important role in ensuring that the workforce can
25 affordably and reliably commute to their places of employment,
26 which service is vital for businesses located inside and outside of
27 this State.

28 However, the operations of freight and passenger railroads would
29 not be possible without the tireless efforts of railroad workers, who
30 work long hours to ensure that freight containers are properly
31 handled and passenger trains are safely operated. Due to the
32 constant demand for freight and passenger rail service, many
33 railroad workers are often forced to work irregular shifts,
34 sacrificing time away from their friends and family.

35 Moreover, railroad workers have also shown a willingness to
36 work in dangerous conditions during times of crisis to ensure that
37 the public receives crucial freight and passenger rail services.
38 During the COVID-19 pandemic, railroad workers served as
39 frontline workers who, despite the dangers of working in close
40 proximity to one another, worked to alleviate supply chain backlogs
41 and commute essential health care workers. Without their
42 contributions, there is little doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic
43 would have unleashed even more harm on the physical and
44 economic well-being of the people of this State.

45 Whether during times of peace or times of crisis, railroad
46 workers provide an invaluable service for the people of this State by
47 ensuring that the modern, globalized economy continues to

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- 1 function. As such, it is altogether fitting and proper to celebrate the
- 2 contributions of these workers by designating “New Jersey Railroad
- 3 Workers Day” in this State.