

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 54

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblywoman **BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman **YVONNE LOPEZ**

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman **VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblywomen **Carter, Tucker**, Assemblyman **Caputo**, Assemblywoman **B.DeCroce** and Assemblyman **Giblin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates May of each year as “Stroke Awareness Month.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of May of each year  
2       as “Stroke Awareness Month” in New Jersey.  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, A stroke is a medical event that disrupts blood flow to the  
5       brain, which kills brain cells in the affected areas and can lead to  
6       paralysis, cognitive and emotional difficulties, and problems with  
7       speaking; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, An ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke, is  
9       caused by a blood clot in a blood vessel in the brain; and  
10  **WHEREAS** A hemorrhagic stroke is a more serious type of stroke  
11       caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain; and  
12  **WHEREAS**, A transient ischemia attack, commonly called a ministroke,  
13       has symptoms resembling strokes and needs immediate medical  
14       attention to help prevent an ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke; and  
15  **WHEREAS**, Each year, almost 800,000 people in the United States  
16       have a stroke, leading to about 140,000 deaths; and  
17  **WHEREAS**, The risk of having a stroke increases with age and strokes  
18       are a main cause of long-term disability as well as compromised  
19       mobility in more than half of stroke survivors age 65 and older; and  
20  **WHEREAS**, Strokes affect all races and ethnicities, but African-  
21       Americans are twice as likely to suffer strokes, and have a higher  
22       risk of death from a stroke; and  
23  **WHEREAS**, Women account for 60 percent of deaths from strokes and  
24       are twice as likely to die from a stroke than from breast cancer; and  
25  **WHEREAS**, Estimated costs associated with strokes are \$34 billion a  
26       year, which includes the costs of health care services, medicines,  
27       and work absences; and  
28  **WHEREAS**, The National Stroke Association estimates up to 80  
29       percent of strokes can be prevented and greater public awareness is  
30       needed to highlight risk factors such as family history, personal  
31       habits including smoking and drinking alcohol, diet, and lack of  
32       physical activity; and  
33  **WHEREAS**, It is necessary to increase awareness of symptoms of a  
34       stroke, including difficulty thinking clearly, inability to understand  
35       language or speech, tingling sensations in the body, and trouble  
36       walking or maintaining balance; and  
37  **WHEREAS**, The American Stroke Association encourages use of the  
38       F.A.S.T. system to determine if a person shows signs of a stroke,  
39       including face drooping, arm weakness, or slurred speech, and if so,  
40       determining it is time to call 911; and  
41  **WHEREAS**, Increased awareness of the symptoms of a stroke will help  
42       individuals understand if they or others are suffering from a stroke,  
43       which can lead to quicker medical treatment and the prevention of  
44       long-term disabilities; and  
45  **WHEREAS**, Since 1989, the federal government has designated May as  
46       National Stroke Awareness Month to highlight the preventive  
47       measures individuals can take to minimize the risk of having a

1 stroke and to raise awareness of the warning signs of a stroke; now,  
2 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 May of each year is designated as “Stroke  
8 Awareness Month” in the State of New Jersey to foster an  
9 awareness and understanding of strokes and stroke prevention,  
10 including promoting the risk factors that can cause strokes and  
11 symptoms that an individual has suffered in a stroke.

12

13 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
14 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State  
15 to observe “Stroke Awareness Month” with appropriate activities  
16 and programs.

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18 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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23 This joint resolution designates the month of May of each year as  
24 “Stroke Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

25 A stroke disrupts the flow of blood to the brain and can lead to  
26 serious disabilities such as paralysis, problems with cognitive skills,  
27 and speech impairment. There are two main types of stroke,  
28 ischemic and hemorrhagic. People can also suffer from transient  
29 ischemic attacks, commonly known as ministrokes. Approximately  
30 800,000 Americans have strokes each year, resulting in about  
31 140,000 deaths. People of all ages, ethnicities, and genders can  
32 suffer from strokes but risk increases with age and African-  
33 Americans are twice as likely to suffer from strokes.

34 The American Stroke Association estimates that 80 percent of  
35 strokes can be prevented. It is important to raise awareness on the  
36 risk factors of a stroke, which include family history, personal  
37 habits such as smoking and alcohol consumption, diet and lack of  
38 physical activity. It is also key to promote the warning signs that a  
39 person may have suffered a stroke or ministroke, including  
40 difficulty thinking clearly, inability to understand language or  
41 speech, tingling sensations in the body, and trouble walking or  
42 maintaining balance. The American Stroke Association encourages  
43 use of the F.A.S.T. system to determine if a person shows signs of a  
44 stroke, including face drooping, arm weakness, or slurred speech,  
45 and if so, deciding it is time to call 911. Promoting the warning  
46 signs will help people understand if they or other individuals are  
47 suffering from a stroke, which can lead to quicker medical  
48 treatment and the prevention of long-term disabilities.