

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 16

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Corrado and Gopal**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates June 4 of each year as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/8/2018)**

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating June 4 as "Tourette  
2 Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey.  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an inherited neurological  
5 disorder, named for Georges Gilles de la Tourette, the neurologist  
6 who first described the condition; and

7 **WHEREAS**, TS is characterized by repetitive, involuntary physical and  
8 vocal tics that occur many times a day; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Tics experienced by persons with TS are classified as  
10 simple or complex. Simple tics are sudden, brief, repetitive  
11 motions or vocalizations including eye blinking, shoulder  
12 shrugging, repetitive throat clearing, or grunting sounds; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Complex tics are distinct, coordinated patterns of  
14 movements or sounds that include facial grimacing combined with  
15 head twisting and shoulder shrugging, jumping, repeating the words  
16 or phrases of others (echolalia), or uttering socially inappropriate  
17 words such as swearing (coprolalia); and

18 **WHEREAS**, TS is a diagnosis that physicians make after verifying that  
19 a patient has had both motor and vocal tics for at least one year; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Because physicians, unfamiliar with TS, sometimes  
21 consider common tic symptoms inconsequential, part of a  
22 developmental phase, or the result of another condition, many  
23 patients are self-diagnosed after they, their parents, or their friends  
24 read or hear about TS; and

25 **WHEREAS**, TS is frequently accompanied by other neurobehavioral  
26 problems that cause more impairment than the tics themselves.  
27 These include attention deficit disorder, attention deficit  
28 hyperactivity disorder, or obsessive compulsive disorder, learning  
29 disabilities, and impulsivity; and

30 **WHEREAS**, A person with TS may also have problems with  
31 depression, anxiety, and day-to-day activities, which may or may  
32 not be directly related to the disorder; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Although a person with TS may experience a significant  
34 decline in motor and vocal tics in late adolescence and early  
35 adulthood, the associated neurobehavioral conditions may persist  
36 well into adulthood; and

37 **WHEREAS**, More than 20,000 school age children in New Jersey are  
38 suffering from TS, and there is no standard treatment or known cure  
39 for the disorder; and

40 **WHEREAS**, While some cases of TS are aided by medication, these  
41 medications do not completely eliminate symptoms. They often  
42 have severe side effects such as sedation, weight gain, and  
43 cognitive dulling; and

44 **WHEREAS**, Research on TS is being conducted across a number of  
45 medical and scientific disciplines, including genetics,  
46 neuroimaging, clinical trials, and epidemiology; and

**SJR16 BATEMAN, SINGLETON**

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1 **WHEREAS**, This research is necessary to help strengthen clinical  
2 diagnosis, improve genetic counseling, and provide clues for more  
3 effective therapies for people with TS; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Raising public awareness of TS, and educating physicians,  
5 other health care professionals, and school personnel about the  
6 condition, will help to improve the quality of life of all people  
7 touched by TS and encourage the research necessary to identify the  
8 cause of TS, control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder;  
9 now, therefore,

10

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
12 *State of New Jersey:*

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14 1. June 4 of each year is designated as "Tourette Syndrome  
15 Awareness Day" in New Jersey to raise public awareness of  
16 Tourette Syndrome (TS), educate physicians, other health care  
17 professionals, and school personnel about the condition, help  
18 improve the quality of life of all people touched by TS, and  
19 encourage the research necessary to identify the cause of TS,  
20 control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder.

21

22 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
23 proclamation recognizing June 4 as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness  
24 Day" in New Jersey and calling upon public officials, the citizens of  
25 the State, and other interested groups to observe the day with  
26 appropriate activities and programs.

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28 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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**STATEMENT**

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33 This joint resolution permanently designates June 4 as "Tourette  
34 Syndrome Awareness Day" in New Jersey to raise public awareness  
35 of Tourette Syndrome (TS), educate physicians, other health care  
36 professionals, and school personnel about the condition, help  
37 improve the quality of life of all people touched by TS, and  
38 encourage the research necessary to identify the cause of TS,  
39 control its effects, and find a cure for the disorder.