



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 12

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

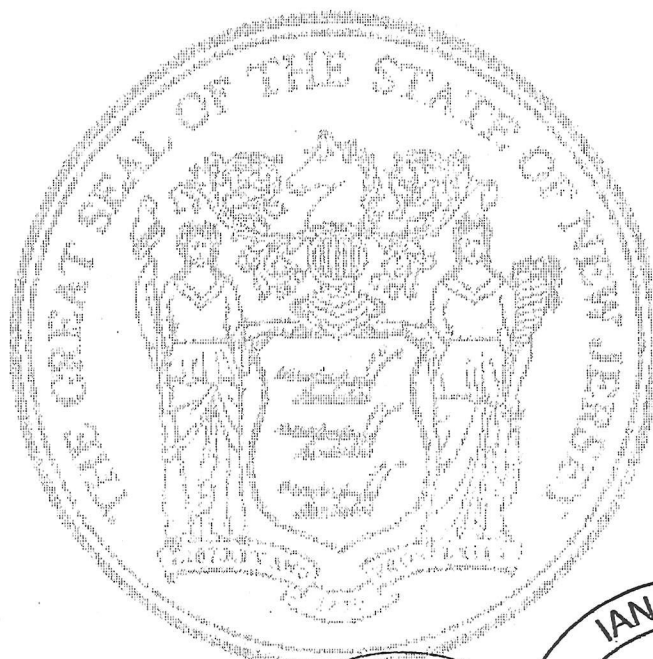
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Designates third full week in March as "Horticultural Therapy Week."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

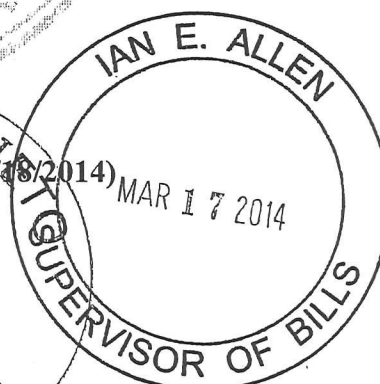
As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee with technical review.

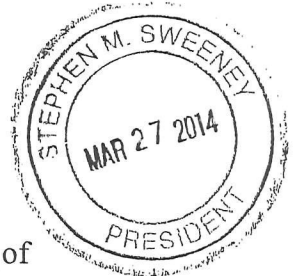


(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/18/2014)

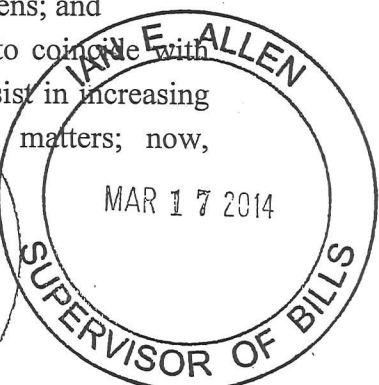
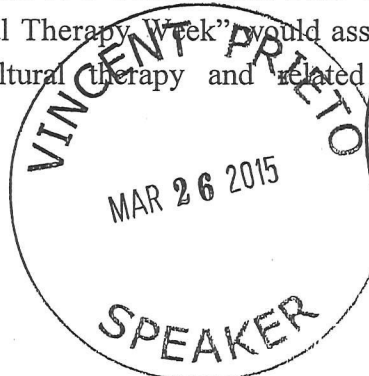
A TRUE COPY
KIM GUADAGNO

Kim Guadagno
SECRETARY OF STATE





1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the third full week in March of
 2 each year as "Horticultural Therapy Week" in New Jersey.
 3
 4 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy is the time-proven practice of using
 5 therapeutic benefits of working in a peaceful and non-threatening
 6 garden environment indoors or outdoors, and using horticulture as a
 7 modality to improve the quality of life; and
 8 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy is practiced through vocational,
 9 therapeutic, and social programs, and successfully enables and
 10 empowers individuals to achieve their maximum independence in
 11 settings such as hospitals, correctional facilities, public schools,
 12 senior centers, and community gardens; and
 13 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy gained prominence in the United
 14 States in rehabilitating wounded veterans of World War II through
 15 the assistance of volunteers and trained professionals, and continues
 16 today in veterans' hospitals across the country; and
 17 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy brings dignity and enhanced skills by
 18 allowing individuals to grow and function to the best of their
 19 abilities, and helps individuals such as those recovering from illness
 20 or injury, the elderly, socially disadvantaged individuals, and
 21 individuals with disabilities; and
 22 WHEREAS, Awareness and growth of the profession of horticultural
 23 therapy is being realized through increased educational
 24 opportunities, beginning with the first Master of Science degree in
 25 horticultural therapy, awarded by Michigan State University in
 26 1955, and continuing across the country in universities, colleges,
 27 and community colleges, and through horticultural therapy
 28 certificate programs; and
 29 WHEREAS, The American Horticultural Therapy Association, a
 30 nonprofit organization that is federally tax-exempt pursuant to
 31 section 501 (c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26
 32 U.S.C.s.501(c)(3), provides opportunities for registered
 33 horticultural therapy professionals to share research, professional
 34 standards, and best practices, as well as for the public to obtain
 35 information and resources; and
 36 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy was practiced by Dr. Benjamin Rush,
 37 a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and
 38 WHEREAS, Horticultural therapy is beneficial for people of all ages
 39 and all walks of life in a wide variety of rehabilitative, health care,
 40 and residential settings, providing benefits directly through formal
 41 programs with trained horticultural therapy professionals, and
 42 providing benefits indirectly through encouraging the designation
 43 and creation of public gardens and community gardens; and
 44 WHEREAS, The designation of a week in this State to coincide with
 45 "National Horticultural Therapy Week" would assist in increasing
 46 awareness of horticultural therapy and related matters; now,
 47 therefore,



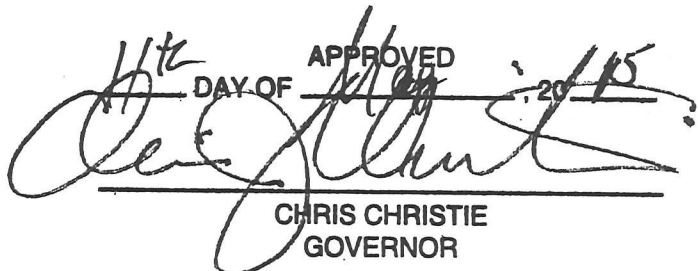



1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the
2 *State of New Jersey*:

3
4 1. The third full week in March of each year is designated as
5 "Horticultural Therapy Week" in New Jersey to increase public
6 awareness of the importance of horticultural therapy in improving
7 the quality of life for all and increasing opportunities for each
8 individual to experience the endless benefits of the people-plant
9 connection.

10
11 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation recognizing the
12 third full week in March of each year as "Horticultural Therapy
13 Week" and calling upon public officials and the citizens of this
14 State to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

15
16 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED
DAY OF March, 2015

CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

Attest


Christopher S. Porrino
Chief Counsel to the Governor

