

P.L. 2017, Joint Resolution No. 19, ***approved October 16, 2017***  
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 77 (***First Reprint***)

**A Joint Resolution** designating October of each year as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in New Jersey and supplementing Title 36 of the Revised Statutes.

**Whereas**, Dyslexia is a learning disability that can hinder a person’s ability to read, write, spell, and sometimes speak; and

**Whereas**, Dyslexia is the most common learning disability in children and persists throughout life with 10 percent of the population or one out of every 10 people in the United States suffering from dyslexia; and

**Whereas**, Dyslexia has affected some of the world’s most famous artists, innovators, and leaders, including Thomas Edison who began his career as an inventor in Newark, New Jersey and opened the first industrial research lab in Menlo Park, New Jersey; and Woodrow Wilson who attended the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, and who served as the President of Princeton University, as the Governor of New Jersey, and as the 28th President of the United States; and

**Whereas**, Dyslexia is identifiable with over 90 percent certainty in children ages five and one-half to six and one-half; and

**Whereas**, Children with dyslexia who are identified as dyslexic and provided with effective reading instruction in kindergarten and first grade, will have significantly fewer problems learning to read at grade-level than children who are not identified as dyslexic or provided help until third grade or later; and

**Whereas**, Children with untreated dyslexia suffer devastating personal consequences as it is the primary reason teenagers drop out of school, is a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency, and can lead to adults unable to achieve at their fullest capacity; and

**Whereas**, Proper diagnosis, early and appropriate intervention and support from family, teachers, and friends will greatly increase a child’s academic success and self-esteem, however it is never too late for adults with dyslexia to learn to read, and to process and express information more efficiently; and

**Whereas**, October is National Dyslexia Awareness Month, reminding students and their parents that difficulties encountered in living with dyslexia can be overcome with early intervention and can lead to successes in adulthood; and

**Whereas**, During the month of October, conferences are held around the United States to promote awareness, research, and early identification of dyslexia; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. October of each year is designated as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.
2. The Governor <sup>1</sup>~~shall~~ <sup>1</sup>may<sup>1</sup> annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.
3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

Designates October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in New Jersey.