

36:2-3

December 16, 1970

LEGISLATIVE NOTES ON R.S.36:2-3
New Jersey Day - April 17

Copy 2

L.1970 - Chapter 30 - S642.
March 9 - Introduced by Coffee.
Not amended during passage.
Bill had statement (copy enclosed).

No clippings located at:
Vertical file -- New Jersey -- Holidays

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SENATE, No. 642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 1970

By Senator COFFEE

Referred to Committee on State Government

AN ACT to designate April 17 of each year as New Jersey Day, and providing for the issuance by the Governor of the State of New Jersey of an annual proclamation thereof.

1 WHEREAS, On April 17, 1702, at the Court of St. James in England,
2 Queen Anne accepted a deed of surrender of their power of
3 government from the Proprietors of East Jersey and West
4 Jersey, and said date is regarded as marking the beginning of
5 unified government in the Province of New Jersey;

6 WHEREAS, New Jersey, as one of the original thirteen states of the
7 United States, as the third state to ratify the Constitution of the
7A United States, as the State deservedly known as the Pathway of
8 the Revolution, is a State with a rich treasury of history of mean-
9 ingful significance to the everyday lives of its citizens and in-
10 habitants and of all citizens and residents of the United States;

11 WHEREAS, This rich heritage of our forebears of the past three
12 centuries can, and should, serve both as a guide and inspiration
13 to realizing the hopes and aspirations of past and present citizens
14 and residents enunciated in the motto of the State of New Jersey:
15 "Liberty and Prosperity" for all; and

16 WHEREAS, It is reasonable and desirable that the Legislature and
17 Governor shall set aside a day each year for the commemoration
18 of the beginning of unified government in New Jersey and for
19 reflection upon the heritage with which we have been endowed
20 and for guidance and inspiration in our continuing pursuit of
21 liberty, prosperity and happiness; now, therefore,

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

1 1. The Governor of the State of New Jersey is requested to issue
2 annually an appropriate proclamation designating April 17 as New
3 Jersey Day and calling upon all citizens and residents of this State
4 to commemorate and observe said day as the anniversary of the

5 beginning of unified government in New Jersey by directing, and
 6 participating in, programs recalling our heritage and its meaning
 7 to New Jersey today and in the future.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill is intended to establish an annual observance in which the people of New Jersey may contemplate the glories of their State's past and dedicate themselves to building a future that is worthy of that past.

New Jersey has recently been accorded a most unwelcome notoriety because of the misdeeds and criminal activities of a very small segment of its population. The massive publicity given to such matters can have a most unwholesome and demoralizing impact unless a conscious effort is made to preserve a proper perspective upon the permanent and fundamental character of the State as a whole, which, in the words of the Governor's recent inaugural address, is "a law-abiding and basically religious community of seven million souls."

As recited in the preamble, this State has played a glorious part in the history of our nation. It is today a focal point of industry and commerce, contributing largely to the national prosperity, and is the most urbanized State in the Union. It has, however, preserved nearly two-thirds of its land in farm and woodland, and the outstanding quality of its crops has earned it the nickname of "Garden State".

It is also a State which has given due emphasis to the cultivation of the minds, as well as the industry, of its people. It maintains 1,873 elementary and 417 secondary public schools, in addition to 275 private schools. Its five distinguished universities include Princeton University and Rutgers—The State University, both dating from Colonial times; and there are six State Colleges, 14 liberal arts colleges and 24 junior colleges. The efforts of these educational institutions are supplemented and extended by 342 public libraries and 13 county libraries.

The accomplishments, achievements and many merits of this State and its people, past and present, must not be allowed to become obscured in public consciousness by any momentary but massive surge of derogatory publicity.