

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Kristallnacht Memorial Night)

NJSA: 36:1-12

LAWS OF: 1995 **CHAPTER:** 258

BILL NO: S2015

SPONSOR(S): Bennett and others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 11, 1995

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY** ---

SENATE: State Government

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** November 9, 1995

SENATE: October 19, 1995

DATE OF APPROVAL: November 9, 1995

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

KBG:pp

§§1,2
C.36:1-12
& 36:1-13
§§2,3
Note To
52:31-39

P.L.1995, CHAPTER 258, *approved November 9, 1995*
1995 Senate No. 2015

1 AN ACT designating the night of November 9-10 in each year as
2 Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey, amending
3 P.L.1991, c.193 and supplementing Title 36 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

5

6 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
7 *State of New Jersey:*

8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares:

9 a. On the night of November 9-10, 1938, organized gangs of
10 Nazi Gestapo agents instigated a horrible wave of wanton
11 destruction aimed at Jews, Jewish synagogues, homes and shops
12 in almost every town and city in Germany;

13 b. That night, Kristallnacht - "The Night of Broken Glass,"
14 witnessed some of the most brutal acts of intentional savagery
15 ever committed by a sovereign government against a religious
16 minority;

17 c. This barbaric and unprecedented event was coordinated and
18 stimulated by the Gestapo, the dreaded secret police of Adolph
19 Hitler and his tyrannical Nazi government which ruled Germany,
20 for the express purpose of burning Jewish synagogues, destroying
21 Jewish property and arresting as many Jews as possible;

22 d. The gruesome pogrom resulted in the burning of 119
23 synagogues, of which 76 were completely destroyed; the
24 destruction or looting of 7,500 Jewish shops and homes; and the
25 death of at least 36 Jews and the serious injury of at least 36
26 more;

27 e. On that same night of horror, 20,000 Jews were
28 systematically rounded up "for their own protection" and sent to
29 the heinous concentration camps of Dachau,
30 Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald where their heads
31 were shaven and they were forced to wear coarse prison suits
32 stamped with the yellow Star of David and where death was a
33 frequent and brutal visitor;

34 f. To compound the senseless tribulations suffered by Jews on
35 Kristallnacht, the Nazis forced them to pay 25 million marks for
36 the destruction of their own property and levied an additional
37 fine of one billion marks, supposedly for their "crimes" against
38 the state;

39 g. Kristallnacht for the first time confirmed to the world the
40 truly evil nature of the Nazis and the totalitarian German
41 government of Hitler, and it served as a horrible and ominous
42 omen of how that government was in later years to coldly murder

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 six million Jews and others in a mindless attempt at the genocide
2 of an entire religious minority; and

3 h. It is imperative for the current generation of Americans and
4 residents of New Jersey to remember the brutality of
5 Kristallnacht and its importance as a portent of the Holocaust
6 which later destroyed six million Jews and millions of others.

7 2. (New section) The night of November 9-10 in each year is
8 designated as Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey in
9 honor of the innocent victims of that Nazi outrage. On the night
10 of every November 9-10, the State Capitol Joint Management
11 Commission, established pursuant to P.L.1992, c.67 (C.52:31-34
12 et seq.), shall ensure that each room and office in each State
13 building within the Capitol Complex remains lit for the entire
14 night as a remembrance of the terrible events of Kristallnacht
15 and the Holocaust, and as a symbol of hope that humanity will
16 finally unite to put an end to genocide. The State Capitol Joint
17 Management Commission shall consult with the New Jersey
18 Commission on Holocaust Education, established pursuant to
19 P.L.1991, c.193 (C.18A:4A-1 et seq.), on increasing public
20 awareness of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.

21 3. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.193 (C.18A:4A-3) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and
24 duties:

25 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and
26 experience of its members, assistance and advice to the public
27 and private schools with respect to the implementation of
28 Holocaust education and awareness programs;

29 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other
30 interested public and private organizations, including service
31 organizations, for the purpose of assisting with the planning,
32 coordination or modification of courses of study dealing with the
33 subject of the Holocaust;

34 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Holocaust
35 and genocide education presently being incorporated into the
36 curricula and taught in the school systems of the State, to
37 inventory those Holocaust memorials, exhibits and resources
38 which could be incorporated in courses of study at various
39 locations throughout the State, and, upon request, to assist the
40 State Department of Education and other educational agencies in
41 the development and implementation of Holocaust and genocide
42 education programs. In furtherance of this responsibility, the
43 commission shall be authorized to contact and cooperate with
44 existing Holocaust and genocide public or private nonprofit
45 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning
46 Holocaust and genocide education to members of the United
47 States Senate and House of Representatives and the New Jersey
48 Senate and General Assembly;

49 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing
50 to share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars
51 and workshops on the subject of the Holocaust. These volunteers
52 may be survivors of the Holocaust, liberators of concentration
53 camps, scholars, clergymen, community relations professionals
54 and other persons who, by virtue of their experience or interest,

1 have acquired personal or academic knowledge of the Holocaust
2 and who are willing to share that knowledge with students and
3 teachers;

4 e. To coordinate events memorializing the Holocaust and to
5 seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in
6 commemorative events that will enhance student awareness of
7 the significance of the Holocaust; [and]

8 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature
9 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the
10 inclusion of Holocaust studies and special programs
11 memorializing the Holocaust in educational systems in the State;
12 and

13 g. To advise and assist the State Capitol Joint Management
14 Commission, established pursuant to P.L.1992, c.67 (C.52:31-34
15 et seq.), for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the
16 annual observance of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.
17 (cf: P.L.1991, c.193, s.3)

18 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
19
20

21 STATEMENT

22
23 This bill designates the night of November 9-10 in each year as
24 Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey in honor of the
25 innocent victims of that Nazi outrage. On the night of every
26 November 9-10, the State Capitol Joint Management Commission
27 shall ensure that each room and office in each State building
28 within the Capitol Complex remain lit for the entire night as a
29 remembrance of the terrible events of Kristallnacht and the
30 Holocaust, and as a symbol of hope that humanity will finally
31 unite to put an end to genocide. The State Capitol Joint
32 Management Commission shall consult with the New Jersey
33 Commission on Holocaust Education on increasing public
34 awareness of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey and the
35 New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education shall advise and
36 assist the State Capitol Joint Management Commission for the
37 purpose of increasing public awareness of the annual observance
38 of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.
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44 Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2015

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 1995

The Senate State Government Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 2015.

This bill designates the night of November 9-10 in each year as Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey in honor of the innocent victims of that Nazi outrage.

The bill provides that on the night of every November 9-10, the State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall ensure that each room and office in each State building within the Capitol Complex remain lit for the entire night as a remembrance of the terrible events of Kristallnacht and the Holocaust, and as a symbol of hope that humanity will finally unite to put an end to genocide.

The bill also provides that the State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall consult with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education on increasing public awareness of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education shall advise and assist the State Capitol Joint Management Commission for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the annual observance of Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

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RELEASE: THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 9, 1995

Governor Christie Whitman tonight will sign legislation designating the night of every Nov. 9 and 10 as Kristallnacht Memorial Night in New Jersey.

"As a symbol of our resolve to remain united against the forces of darkness, each room and office in every state building within the Capitol Complex will remain lit for the entire night," Gov. Whitman said.

She noted that 57 years ago tonight, the Nazis destroyed Jewish businesses, synagogues and homes in a two-day pogrom now known as Kristallnacht or the Night of Broken Glass. The violent display accelerated Hitler's campaign of Jewish persecution and planted the seeds for the Holocaust.

In signing the legislation at a ceremony in the Assembly chambers, Gov. Whitman said, "In this week of anguish for the Jewish people and for everyone who cherishes peace, we dedicate ourselves anew to fight hate by promoting mutual respect and understanding."

The legislation, S2015/A2893, was sponsored by Senators John Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Peter Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Assemblymen Jeff Warsh (R-Middlesex) and Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth).

The bill provides that on the night of every Nov. 9 and 10, the State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall ensure that each room in the Capitol Complex remains lit for the entire night as a remembrance of Kristallnacht and the Holocaust and "as a symbol of hope that humanity will finally unite to put an end to genocide," as the bill summary states.

The bill also specifies that the State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall consult with the N.J. Commission on Holocaust Education to increase the awareness of Kristallnacht Night.