

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 1, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman DENISE M. COYLE

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman SCOTT RUDDER

District 8 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Egan, Greenwald, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen
McKeon and Diegnan**

SYNOPSIS

Proposes Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/6/2010)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing support for a Children's
2 Outdoor Bill of Rights.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Children are spending less time outdoors exploring,
5 discovering and observing our natural world and playing and
6 creating in open spaces; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Not participating in these types of activities has been
8 shown to have adverse health, social and emotional consequences;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Spending time in the outdoors with frequent access to
11 nature experiences and lessons provides a foundation upon which to
12 build physical strength and environmental awareness; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Learning about the environment and other subjects in an
14 outdoor setting, an outdoor classroom or garden, and through field
15 studies and outdoor lab activities, is known to help increase student
16 performance in class, increase student interest in learning, reduce
17 disciplinary problems, and increase student ownership of work
18 being done; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The future quality, quantity and use of New Jersey's
20 natural resources will lie in the hands of children; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Children will need to understand natural systems and the
22 interrelationships between natural and human-built systems, in
23 order to make decisions and take actions that will maintain a high
24 quality of life; now, therefore,

25

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
27 Jersey:

28

29 1. This House proposes that every child has the right and
30 should have opportunities to:

31

32 • Explore the woods; climb a tree

33

34 • Run through a field; build a fort

35

36 • Splash in the water; catch a fish

37

38 • Explore a city park; turn over a log

39

40 • Sleep out in a tent; gaze at stars

41

42 • Follow a trail; listen to bird song

43

44 • Play in the mud; hold a frog

45

46 • Plant a garden; eat locally grown food

47

48 • Play in the rain; follow animal tracks

AR103 P. BARNES, III, COYLE

3

- 1 • Be alone in nature; share it with a friend; and
2
3 • Celebrate New Jersey's habitats; embrace New Jersey's natural
4 heritage.
5
6 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
7 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,
8 shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Commissioner of the
9 Department of Environmental Protection, and the Commissioner of
10 the Department of Children and Families.