

P.L. 2007, Joint Resolution No. 12, *approved November 2, 2007*
Senate Joint Resolution No. 41

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of May of each year
2 as "New Jersey Eyeglass Recycling Month."
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4 **WHEREAS**, The World Health Organization estimates that the eyesight
5 of one-fourth of the world's population, or 500 million people, can
6 be improved by the use of corrective lenses; recycling a pair of
7 eyeglasses costs as little as eight cents in the United States,
8 however, the expense of correcting poor vision is astronomical to
9 those in developing countries, making the ownership of a pair of
10 glasses both unaffordable and inaccessible; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Poor eyesight, if left untreated, can cause blindness or
12 force adults into unemployment, yet, in developing areas of the
13 world this is often the case because in many countries an eye
14 examination can cost as much as one month's salary; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Since 1925, when Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs
16 International Convention and asked its members to become
17 "Knights of the Blind," blindness prevention and sight conservation
18 has been a major initiative for the organization; for over 80 years,
19 individual Lions clubs and districts in the United States, Canada
20 and several other countries have been committed to meeting the
21 demand for quality eyeglasses in developing nations throughout the
22 world, and in October 1994 the Lions Eyeglasses Recycling
23 Program was adopted as an official service activity of the Lions
24 Clubs International; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Lions members generously volunteer their time and
26 services by collecting used eyeglasses for donation, cleaning,
27 repairing and classifying those donations by prescription and
28 distributing the eyeglasses through other Lions clubs hosting optical
29 missions in various countries; since 1996, more than 37 million
30 eyeglasses have been collected by Lions Eyeglass Recycling
31 Centers, and in 2005, five million pairs of eyeglasses were
32 distributed to more than three million people throughout the world;
33 and
34 **WHEREAS**, Each year, the New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling
35 Center at the Katzenbach School in Mercer County collects more
36 than 500,000 eyeglasses for those who do not have access to
37 prescription eyewear; the center also sponsors optical missions in
38 Mexico and the Dominican Republic where optometrists and other
39 medical professionals help to distribute the donated eyeglasses; and
40 **WHEREAS**, By demonstrating a repeated devotion to helping others,
41 the concerned and compassionate members of the New Jersey Lions
42 Club have earned the respect and admiration of all who know of

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1 their efforts and have set the standard for community service that
2 other organizations might emulate; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The vitality of the communities of New Jersey and those
4 throughout the world depend, in great measure, upon dedicated
5 organizations like the Lions Clubs International, whose New Jersey
6 chapter uses its resources to better the lives of those in need by
7 meeting the demand for quality eyeglasses in developing countries
8 and providing services to the visually impaired who cannot afford
9 standard eye care; now, therefore,

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11 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
12 *State of New Jersey:*

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14 1. The month of May of each year shall be designated as "New
15 Jersey Eyeglass Recycling Month."

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17 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation calling upon public
18 officials and the citizens of this State to observe the month with
19 appropriate activities and programs.

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21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This resolution designates May of each year as "New Jersey
27 Eyeglass Recycling Month" in recognition of the New Jersey
28 chapter of the Lions Clubs International, an organization that betters
29 the lives of those in need by meeting the demand for quality
30 eyeglasses in developing countries and providing services to the
31 visually impaired who cannot afford standard eye care.

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36 Designates May of each year as "New Jersey Eyeglass Recycling
37 Month."