

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 230

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

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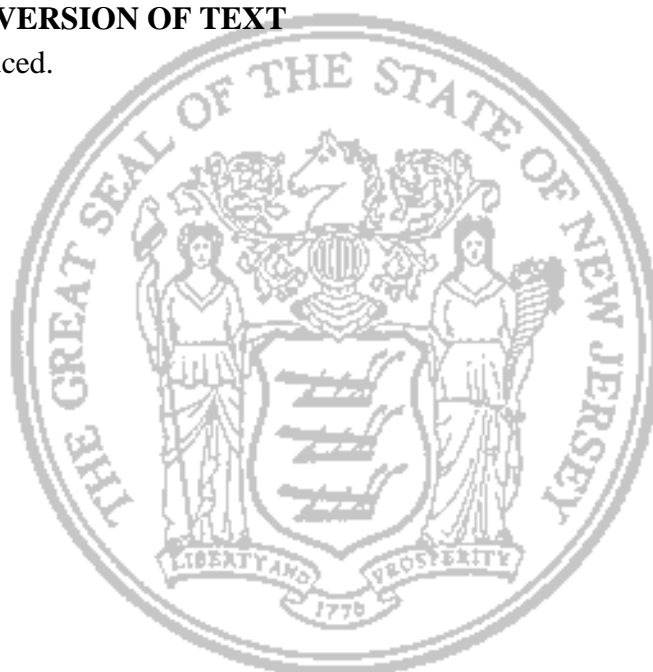
Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Urges federal government to ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and pursue other measures to reduce danger of nuclear war.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the federal government to
2 pursue a broad range of measures to reduce the danger of nuclear
3 war and to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
4 Weapons.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever
7 created by mankind, with immense destructive capacity and
8 lingering radiation effects after detonation; and
9 **WHEREAS**, More than ninety percent of these weapons are in the
10 hands of the United States and Russia, and the rest are held by
11 seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, Pakistan, North
12 Korea, and the United Kingdom; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Since the height of the Cold War, the United States has
14 reduced its active weapons by more than 25,000 nuclear warheads,
15 but about 4,000 still exist, almost 2,000 of which are on alert for
16 use at short notice; and
17 **WHEREAS**, A large-scale nuclear war would cause hundreds of
18 millions of casualties and cause unimaginable environmental
19 damage, and create catastrophic climate disruption by dropping
20 temperatures across the planet to levels that would cause crop
21 failures and mass starvation; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Under current U.S. law, the President has the authority to
23 unilaterally initiate the use of a nuclear weapon; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The power of the United States' stockpile of nuclear
25 weapons is too devastating and the result of their use to irrevocable
26 to be left to the sole authority of the President; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Renouncing the option of launching a first strike with
28 nuclear weapons would reduce tension and make a nuclear
29 exchange between the United States and another country less likely;
30 and
31 **WHEREAS**, These weapons are placed on hair-trigger alert, meaning
32 that the likelihood of an accidental launch or a launch as a result of
33 an international misunderstanding is highly possible; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The planned expenditure of about \$500 billion over the
35 next decade to maintain and enhance our nuclear arsenal, including
36 by developing and deploying new nuclear weapons and broadening
37 the conditions for use, will not only increase the risk of nuclear
38 disaster, but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources
39 needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people
40 all over the world; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was
42 adopted by the United Nations in July of 2017 and, to date, has
43 been signed by 70 countries, and prohibits the development, testing,
44 production, stockpiling, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear
45 weapons, and sets out procedures for nuclear-armed signatories to
46 destroy their existing nuclear stockpile; and
47 **WHEREAS**, The United States, as well as the other nuclear weapon
48 states, are not yet signatories to this treaty; and

1 **WHEREAS**, These actions would be a major step toward eliminating
2 the existence of nuclear weapons, which pose an intolerable risk to
3 human survival, especially if the United States pursues an
4 agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their arsenals;
5 now, therefore,

6
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
8 *Jersey:*

9
10 1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urges the
11 federal government to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear
12 war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending
13 the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S.
14 nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and canceling the plan to
15 replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons, and
16 actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states
17 to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

18
19 2. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urges the
20 President and the Senate of the United States to ratify the Treaty on
21 the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

22
23 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
24 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
25 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of
26 the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
27 United States House of Representatives, and each member of
28 Congress elected thereto from New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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33 This resolution urges the federal government to pursue a broad
34 range of measures to reduce the danger of nuclear war and to ratify
35 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The treaty would
36 prohibit signatories from developing, arming themselves with, or
37 using nuclear weapons. The resolution also calls on the federal
38 government to renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first,
39 end the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack, take
40 their nuclear arsenal off hair-trigger alert, and cancel their plan to
41 replace the entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

42 The effects of nuclear war would be catastrophic for the world,
43 and would include massive numbers of casualties, environmental
44 devastation and destruction of the food supply through a nuclear
45 winter effect. By taking these steps, the United States would
46 commit to a process of dismantling its stockpile of nuclear
47 weapons.