

Assembly Resolution No. 1412

**BY:** M. of A. Rules (DeStefano)

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 21-25, 2026, as Hazing Prevention Week in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Hazing is a behavior that often occurs in environments with imbalanced power dynamics and is intended to screen individuals, foster bonds, or establish standing within organizations, but in doing so, it places individuals at significant risk of physical and/or emotional harm, often contradicting the stated mission or purpose of the organization; and

**WHEREAS,** Hazing can take many forms and occurs in a wide range of settings, including high schools, colleges, athletic teams, fraternities, sororities, clubs, and other organizations; and

**WHEREAS,** An estimated 1.5 million high school students experience hazing each year, and nearly half (47%) of students arrive at college having already been subjected to hazing; and

**WHEREAS,** A staggering 74% of student-athletes report experiencing at least one form of hazing while in college, with the most commonly reported activity being participation in drinking games, which poses additional health and safety risks; and

**WHEREAS,** 55% of college students involved in fraternities, sororities, athletic teams, and other student organizations report having experienced hazing, yet only 1 in 10 of those students recognize or label the behavior as hazing; and

**WHEREAS,** 71% of students who witnessed hazing reported that alcohol was involved, further exacerbating the potential for harm; and

**WHEREAS,** The Hazing Prevention Network, a national leader in education and advocacy, organizes National Hazing Prevention Week (NHPW) each year during the last full week of September, encouraging communities, institutions, organizations, and individuals across the country to take collective and intentional action to raise awareness and promote education to prevent hazing; and

**WHEREAS,** The purpose of NHPW is to provide a designated time for students, educators, coaches, administrators, and community members to engage in meaningful dialogue, reflection, and programming focused on the harms of hazing and strategies for prevention; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York recognizes the need to foster safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for all students and individuals participating in organizations of every kind and is committed to supporting awareness efforts that protect health, well-being, and human dignity; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 21-25, 2026, as Hazing Prevention Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Hazing Prevention Week, and to commend the efforts of the Hazing Prevention Network and all those working to end hazing through education, advocacy, and community engagement; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and the Hazing Prevention Network.