

**DOCUMENT: 1**  
**Consumers League of New Jersey**  
**Pamphlet on Child Labor Legislation, 1929-1930**  
**Shall Children Be Exploited in New Jersey?**

*“There should be no child in America that is not born and does not live under sound conditions of health; that does not have full opportunity of education from the beginning to the end of our institutions; that is not free from injurious labor; that does not have every stimulation to accomplish the fullest of its capacities.”* Herbert Hoover

Assembly Bill No. A22

An act to regulate the employment of resident and non-resident children in this State.

Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- I. No child under the age of sixteen years whether resident or non-resident of this State shall be employed or allowed or permitted to work at any gainful occupation in this State during any of the days or hours during which a resident child of this State is required by law to be in attendance at school. The officers or agents of any corporation, the members of any firm or any person or any parent, guardian or other person who shall have the custody and control of any child who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person or disorderly persons and upon conviction there shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not less than ninety days nor more than three years or both.
- II. It shall be the duty of the Department of Labor of this State and of all attendance officers in every school district in this State and they shall have the legal right to investigate and inspect to discover violations of this act and to make formal complaint in any court in which disorderly persons may be tried against any officers or agents of any corporation, the members of any firm, or any person or parent, guardian or other person having custody and control of a child under the age of sixteen years who shall violate any of the provisions of this act.
- III. This act shall take effect.....

The purpose of the bill is to prevent the gainful employment of children of school age, resident or non-resident, while the schools are in session.

It was introduced by Assemblywoman Haines in 1929 and passed by the Assembly. It never came to a vote in the Senate having been held in the Education Committee. It will be introduced again in 1930.

## Need for Regulation

- I. Existing school attendance and child labor laws do not apply to non-resident children.
- II. The number of such children is large. In 1927 more than 1,900 children under 16 in Philadelphia alone were absent from school because they or their families were migratory workers, and 95% of them had migrated to New Jersey. Practically all of these children (94%) worked while they were in the country.\*
- III. Migratory work is a serious handicap to education. Of the children included in the above study, 80% lost one month or more of school, and 20% lost three months or more.  
Sixty-four percent of the migratory children were at least one year below grade in school, as compared with 36% for all public school children in Philadelphia.
- IV. The work done by these children frequently involves fatigue and strain. In the study referred to, the large majority of the working children (nearly 1,400) were employed for approximately the same number of hours as their parents worked. Yet more than 80 percent of these workers were under 14 years, and more than 25% were under 10 years of age.

\*Migratory Child Workers and School attendance, Department of Labor and Industry of Pennsylvania, 1928.

## Organizations Endorsing Bill

The following organizations have endorsed the bill:

Consumers' League of New Jersey  
Federation of Colored Women's Clubs  
National Child Labor Committee  
National Council of Jewish Women (Jersey City Section)  
National Council of Catholic Women (Diocese of Newark)  
New Jersey State Federation of Labor  
New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs  
New Jersey State League of Women Voters  
New Jersey State Nurses Association  
New Jersey Community Workers Association  
New Jersey Tuberculosis League  
New Jersey State Republican Club  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union of New Jersey

We solicit your personal support and ask for formal resolutions of endorsement from organizations interested in the welfare of children.

For further information, literature or speakers, write to the Consumers' League of New Jersey, 56 New Street, Newark, NJ, the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, 41 Franklin Street, Newark, NJ, or the National Child Labor Committee, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.