

No. R-67. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation on its 50th anniversary.

(H.C.R.48)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, in 1965 the General Assembly enacted Act 198, establishing the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) as an agency of the State “to provide opportunities for persons who are residents of Vermont to attend colleges or other institutions by awarding grants and guaranteeing loans,” and

Whereas, VSAC guaranteed its first student loan in 1966 and the following year began administering Vermont Honor Scholarships, and

Whereas, a significant new facet of VSAC’s work started in 1969 when it joined the federal Talent Search program for high school students belonging to families with low incomes or a minimal history of prior college attendance, and

Whereas, in 1981 VSAC began offering outreach services to adult learners and in 1982 expanded its grant-making to include funding for part-time study, and

Whereas, in 1984 Vermont became the first State to provide grants for nondegree study, increasing the opportunities for students to obtain the training and education needed for future careers, and

Whereas, in 1991 VSAC began participating in the federal Educational Opportunity Center program for adult learners, and

Whereas, in 1999 Vermont was one of the first states to participate in the GEAR UP Program that Senator Jeffords created based on the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership that VSAC implemented, and

Whereas, also in 1999, VSAC established the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan, enabling families to develop savings accounts for their children’s college education, and

Whereas, in 2000 VSAC began offering career and education software to every middle and high school student, and

Whereas, by 2012 VSAC’s total scholarships since its creation exceeded \$80 million and represented 47,000 awards to students, and

Whereas, VSAC has awarded 461,000 grants worth more than \$500 million for full-time, part-time, and nondegree students, and

Whereas, after half a century, VSAC remains a vital resource for assisting students in the financing of their higher education, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.