

**No. R-363. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont State Housing Authority on its 50th anniversary.**

(H.C.R.291)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Fields of Bennington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Howard of Rutland City, Read of Fayston, Scheuermann of Stowe, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, and Walz of Barre City

Offered by: Senator Cummings

Whereas, in 1968, Governor Philip Hoff recognized the growing need to assure sufficient affordable housing in Vermont and determined that a statewide housing authority would be an appropriate entity to help the State gain access to dedicated federal housing funds, and

Whereas, at the Governor's behest, the General Assembly enacted 1968 Acts and Resolves No. 332, which was signed into law on March 23 of that year and created the first statewide housing authority in the United States, the Vermont State Housing Authority, and

Whereas, section 2 of the Act provided that the Vermont State Housing Authority be "a public body corporate and politic of perpetual duration," consisting of five commissioners that the Governor appoints for five-year terms, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, and

Whereas, the Vermont State Housing Authority's purpose is to improve affordable housing conditions and facilities in Vermont, using federal financial support for housing and related accommodations for people with low income, and

Whereas, it does not discriminate in the offering of its housing support services based on "race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry or place of birth, age, U.S. Military Veteran status, familial status, marital status, disability, HIV status, or because income is derived in whole or in part from public assistance," and

Whereas, since the inception of the Vermont State Housing Authority, it has been fulfilling its legislative mandate, using primarily federal resources and forming unique partnerships, all without any direct State appropriations and

Whereas, the Vermont State Housing Authority is active in almost every community in Vermont and is the State's largest provider of rental assistance, providing those services to almost 8,500 Vermont families, and

Whereas, for a half-century, with great pride, the Vermont State Housing Authority has worked hard to meet the rental housing requirements of the neediest Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont State Housing Authority on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont State Housing Authority Executive Director Richard M. Williams.