

**No. R-145. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont court diversion program on its 30th anniversary.**

(S.C.R.21)

By Senators Sears, Mullin and Nitka,

By Representatives Lippert of Hinesburg, Morrissey of Bennington, Haas of Rochester, Acinapura of Brandon, Adams of Hartland, Ainsworth of Royalton, Ancel of Calais, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Audette of South Burlington, Baker of West Rutland, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Clark of Vergennes, Clarkson of Woodstock, Clerkin of Hartford, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Consejo of Sheldon, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donaghy of Poultney, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Fisher of Lincoln, Flory of Pittsford, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Geier of South Burlington, Gilbert of Fairfax, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Helm of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Howard of Rutland City, Howrigan of Fairfield, Hube of Londonderry, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Johnson of Canaan, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Koch of Barre Town, Koline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Larson of Burlington, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Derby, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Maier of Middlebury, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McAllister of Highgate, McCullough of Williston, McDonald of Berlin, McFaun of Barre Town, McNeil of Rutland Town, Milkey of Brattleboro, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Morley of Barton, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Obuchowski of Rockingham, O'Donnell of Vernon, Orr of Charlotte, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Peaslee of Guildhall, Pellett of Chester, Peltz of Woodbury, Perley of Enosburg, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Rodgers of Glover, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of Mendon, Smith of Morristown, South of St. Johnsbury, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney

of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Turner of Milton, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Westman of Cambridge, Weston of Burlington, Wheeler of Derby, Wilson of Manchester, Winters of Williamstown, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, Young of St. Albans City, Zenie of Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington,

*Whereas*, for the past 30 years, Vermont citizens in every county have successfully addressed crime at the community level through locally controlled and volunteer-managed court diversion programs, and

*Whereas*, court diversion holds individuals who violate the law accountable for their actions in a manner that promotes responsible behavior, and

*Whereas*, court diversion programs around the state have redirected over 75,000 people out of the court system, saving many hours of judicial system staff time and expense, and

*Whereas*, court diversion promotes the development of safer Vermont communities through its individualized approach to low-level crime and by facilitating relationships among citizens, persons responsible for harm, and those harmed by a crime, and

*Whereas*, the court diversion program has responded to the needs of crime victims and overseen the payment of over \$2,800,000 in restitution payments to victims of crime during the past 30 years, and

*Whereas*, court diversion participants have provided over 645,000 hours of community service in their local communities, and

*Whereas*, court diversion has reduced the work of the state's attorneys, defense counsel and courts, saving the state a significant amount of money, and

*Whereas*, 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of court diversion in Vermont, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly is pleased to honor the court diversion program on its 30th anniversary and its work to improve the criminal justice system, and congratulates the thousands of Vermonters who have been part of its success, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Willa Farrell, Director of Court Diversion.