

No. R-241. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Sledcats sled hockey team.

(H.C.R. 161)

Offered by: Representatives Milkey of Brattleboro, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Audette of South Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Davis of Washington, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, French of Randolph, Geier of South Burlington, Gilbert of Fairfax, Head of South Burlington, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Koch of Barre Town, Komline of Dorset, Larson of Burlington, Lorber of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Poirier of Barre City, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Stevens of Shoreham, Taylor of Barre City, Trombley of Grand Isle, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Weston of Burlington, Wilson of Manchester, Winters of Williamstown, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington and Zuckerman of Burlington

Whereas, the Northeast Disabled Athletic Association (NDAA) is a nonprofit Vermont organization established to provide support for individuals with physical disabilities who wish to participate in recreational and competitive athletics, and

Whereas, sled hockey is one of the sports the NDAA has promoted, and in 2004, under its auspices, the Vermont Sledcats were formed, and

Whereas, sled hockey is a an action-filled version of ice hockey “played primarily by people with mobility disabilities” who sit in a sled with two hockey skate blades under the seat, and “the checking, raised puck shooting, and penalty killing” that are found in standard ice hockey are equally present in this version of the game, and

Whereas, the Vermont Sledcats’ roster ranges in age from 15 to 56 and comes from throughout the state, and the team plays under the careful scrutiny of coach Joe Clark, a faculty member at Winooski High School, and

Whereas, Cairns Arena in South Burlington serves as the Vermont Sledcats' home ice, and the team also hosts summer practices at the Riley Rink in Manchester, and

Whereas, in April 2009, the Vermont Sledcats played in their first tournament, the New England Invitational Sled Hockey tournament in Westfield, Massachusetts, in which they represented Vermont in grand style against teams from New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Texas, and

Whereas, over the weekend of October 23–24, at the Cairns Arena, the Vermont Sledcats will host Vermont's first tournament celebrating the team's entry into the Northeast Sled Hockey League, and its competitors are slated to include the New Hampshire Wildcats, the Buffalo Sabres, the Connecticut Wolfpack, the New York Rangers, and the Pennsylvania Center-Pedes sled hockey teams, and

Whereas, the Vermont Sledcats have developed into a formidable team in this fast-paced sport, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermont Sledcats sled hockey team for the opportunities it has provided to physically disabled ice hockey enthusiasts and wishes the team good luck on its entry into the Northeast Sled Hockey League, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Northeast Disabled Athletic Association President Patrick Standen.