

No. R-187. House concurrent resolution commemorating the incorporation of Vermont towns observing their 250th anniversary in 2011.

(H.C.R.147)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Acinapura of Brandon, Andrews of Rutland City, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bohi of Hartford, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Buxton of Royalton, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Christie of Hartford, Clark of Vergennes, Clarkson of Woodstock, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Donaghy of Poultney, Eckhardt of Chittenden, Emmons of Springfield, Fagan of Rutland City, Font-Russell of Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of Canaan, Komline of Dorset, Lanpher of Vergennes, Malcolm of Pawlet, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McNeil of Rutland Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Moran of Wardsboro, Nuovo of Middlebury, Olsen of Jamaica, Peaslee of Guildhall, Potter of Clarendon, Ralston of Middlebury, Shand of Weathersfield, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of New Haven, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney of Windsor and Wilson of Manchester

Whereas, the state of Vermont declared its legal existence and independence from Great Britain in January 1777, but many towns in the newly formed state had already been incorporated, and

Whereas, prior to January 1777 and for a number of years thereafter, both New Hampshire and New York claimed political jurisdiction over the territory

now consisting of the state of Vermont, resulting in violent disputes over the validity of municipal incorporation charters that New Hampshire's Royal Governor Benning Wentworth was liberally issuing for large fees, and

Whereas, defense of the New Hampshire grants was the catalyst for the formation of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, and

Whereas, Governor Wentworth granted his first municipal charter on January 3, 1749 for the establishment of the town of Bennington, and

Whereas, aside from the reservation of a large parcel for his personal use, these charters, typically six miles square in size, required that five acres of each grantee's land be cultivated within five years, a directive that not infrequently was ignored, and

Whereas, it was not unusual for many years to pass before a town saw its first settler, who often was not one of the proprietors, and

Whereas, in 2011 the municipalities of Addison, Andover, Arlington, Barnard, Brandon, Bridgewater, Bridport, Brunswick, Castleton, Cavendish, Clarendon, Cornwall, Danby, Dorset, Fairlee, Ferdinand, Glastenbury, Granby, Guildhall, Guilford, Hartford, Hartland, Killington, Leicester, Ludlow, Maidstone, Manchester, Middlebury, Mount Tabor, New Haven, Norwich, Panton, Pawlet, Peru, Pittsford, Plymouth, Pomfret, Poultney, Reading, Rupert, Rutland (the original encompassing both the current city and the town), Salisbury, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sharon, Shoreham, Shrewsbury, Somerset, Springfield, Stockbridge, Strafford, Stratton, Sunderland, Thetford, Tinmouth,

Tunbridge, Wallingford, Weathersfield, Wells, Weybridge, Windsor, Winhall, and Woodstock are observing their 250th anniversary of their legal establishment, and

Whereas, many of these communities will hold festive celebrations throughout 2011, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the incorporation of Vermont municipalities marking their 250th anniversary in 2011, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the town clerk of each municipality honored in this resolution.