

**No. R-254. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 125th anniversary of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.**

(H.C.R.139)

Offered by: Representative Heath of Westford

Whereas, the seal of approval that validates the public's positive perception of a school or college is the recognition that one of the nation's six regional accrediting organizations grants to the educational institution, and

Whereas, the original of these important regional educational agencies is the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC), which convened an initial organizational gathering on October 16, 1885 and subsequently held its first annual meeting in October 1886, and

Whereas, for the past one-and-a-quarter centuries, NEASC has been unique among the six regional accreditation associations as it reviews and certifies the curricula and administrative operations of public and independent educational institutions ranging from prekindergarten programs through graduate schools, and

Whereas, the NEASC accreditation process encompasses multiple components including self-reflection, peer review, and best practices in combination with follow-up monitoring to assure that the educational institution remains faithful to the standards used in the assessment process, and

Whereas, NEASC-accredited members include over 2,000 educational institutions throughout New England and more than 170

American/international schools worldwide accrediting 110 members in Vermont, and

Whereas, there are many links between the state of Vermont and NEASC, beginning with the membership of the distinguished Vermont Academy administrator Horace Mann Willard on the committee which laid the groundwork for the establishment of NEASC, and

Whereas, Vermont United States Senator Justin Morrill, the father of the nation's land-grant college system, and Governor Charles W. Gates played important roles in the early years of NEASC, and

Whereas, United States Senator James Jeffords of Vermont was the recipient of NEASC's Charles W. Eliot Award, and, from 2008 to 2009, University of Vermont President Daniel Fogel was the eighth Vermont education leader to serve as NEASC's president, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in Bedford, Massachusetts.