

No. R-360. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the Essex County towns of Averill, Bloomfield, Lemington, and Lewis.

(H.C.R.285)

Offered by: Representatives Johnson of Canaan, Peaslee of Guildhall and Devereux of Mount Holly

Offered by: Senators Illuzzi and Starr

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, aside from the reservation of a large parcel for Governor Wentworth's 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, these grants of town charters extended across the state and to the far northern frontier within the boundaries of Essex County and the area popularly and proudly known as the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, in 2012, in Essex County, the organized towns of Bloomfield and Lemington and the unified town of Lewis are each observing the 250th anniversary of their legal establishment, and

Whereas, these organized towns remain among the most sparsely populated in Vermont and are proud of their rugged rural heritage, and the unified town of Averill has a grand population, according to the 2010 United States Census, of 24, and the unified town of Lewis's population stands at zero, the same as in 1762, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the Essex County towns of Averill, Bloomfield, Lemington, and Lewis, 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 organized municipality honored in this resolution and to the supervisor of unified towns and gores in Essex County in Island Pond.