

No. R-440. Joint resolution urging each university and college in Vermont to establish offices to assist students who are United States military veterans.

(J.R.H.22)

Offered by: Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Acinapura of Brandon, Andrews of Rutland City, Batchelor of Derby, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bouchard of Colchester, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Buxton of Tunbridge, Cheney of Norwich, Christie of Hartford, Clark of Vergennes, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Consejo of Sheldon, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Dakin of Chester, Degree of St. Albans City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donaghy of Poultney, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Eckhardt of Chittenden, Edwards of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Grad of Moretown, Head of South Burlington, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Jerman of Essex, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Klein of East Montpelier, Koch of Barre Town, Komline of Dorset, Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Leriche of Hardwick, Lewis of Berlin, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, McAllister of Highgate, McFaun of Barre Town, McNeil of Rutland Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Moran of Wardsboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Olsen of Jamaica, Pearce of Richford, Perley of Enosburgh, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of New Haven, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Strong of Albany, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Turner of Milton, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, in recent years, a large number of young men and women have served our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan as members of the United States Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy, as well as National Guard units, and

Whereas, as these military veterans return from the battlefields to civilian life, an important avenue for career development is college studies on either a full- or part-time basis, and

Whereas, although the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs each provide myriad informational and support services, college students who have served our nation often need immediate access to qualified professionals who can individually assist them with matters related to career and educational options, personal finances, and health care that are unique to veterans, and include navigating through the labyrinth of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' bureaucracy and the intricacies of the GI Bill, and

Whereas, college students' academic schedules often limit their ability to travel to off-campus locations to visit federal and state offices serving veterans, and

Whereas, these veterans' inquiries and support requirements may have a direct correlation with their lives as students, and an information counselor who is well versed in educational matters would bring a more knowledgeable perspective to questions that may be posed, and

Whereas, encouraging veterans to attend college is both individually and societally beneficial, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges each university and college in Vermont to establish an on-campus veterans affairs office to provide specialized assistance and support to college students who are military veterans, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council and to each university and college president in Vermont.