

**No. R-151. House concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the Town of Essex.**

(H.C.R.111)

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex, and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, on June 7, 1763, New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth granted a tract of land measuring 23,040 acres to a group of grantees (proprietors) for the town of Essex, and

Whereas, the charter described the boundaries for this municipality as “Beginning at the northerly side of Onion or French river at the southerly corner of Colchester from thence running easterly up said river (bounding on the same) so far as to make six miles upon a straight line perpendicular with the upper line of Colchester afores’d thence northerly a parallel line with the said upper line of Colchester . . . ,” and

Whereas, although the exact origin of the name Essex is speculative, one theory ties the selection to the English Earldom of Essex, and

Whereas, members of the Allen family, including Ethan, Ira, Heman, and Zimry, along with Remember Baker formed the Onion River Company with the goal of establishing settlements in Essex and other recently chartered towns, and

Whereas, although none of these settlements lasted long, the Allen Family would be intricately involved in land title disputes in Essex until the proprietors petitioned the General Assembly in 1804 for relief, and it was not until 1808 that the problems were finally untangled, and

Whereas, Ira Allen convened the first recorded proprietors’ meeting in Sunderland on January 31, 1781, and

Whereas, in the spring of 1783, Samuel Smith, William Smith, Jonathan Winchell, Dubartis Willard, David Hall, and Willard Blood became the first permanent settlers in Essex, and

Whereas, the first official Essex Town Meeting met at the home of Dr. Elkanah Billings on March 22, 1786, at which Dubartis Willard was elected moderator and selectman, and

Whereas, in 1801, Essex was divided into seven school districts, and

Whereas, in 1849, Essex welcomed its first railroad, and by later in the 19th century, the town became a major Vermont railroad hub, and

Whereas, in 2013, Essex is a thriving commercial and residential center, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the sestercentennial anniversary of the Town of Essex, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Essex Town Clerk.