

**No. R-192. House concurrent resolution designating May 1, 2013 as Poverty Awareness Day in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.140)

Offered by: Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro, Poirier of Barre City, Burke of Brattleboro, Donovan of Burlington, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Jerman of Essex, McCormack of Burlington, Miller of Shaftsbury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, South of St. Johnsbury, Spengler of Colchester, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Webb of Shelburne, and Weed of Enosburgh

Offered by: Senators Pollina and White

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011 poverty data from its American Community Survey, 69,075 Vermonters, representing 12 percent of the state's population, were living in poverty, and

Whereas, the nonpartisan organization Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity reported that in, Vermont 15 percent of children and 11 percent of seniors live in poverty and 29 percent of single-parent families with related children are below the federal poverty level, and

Whereas, 4.9 percent of Vermonters live in extreme poverty, and

Whereas, according to the Vermont Department of Taxes, an individual earning \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 experienced a loss of adjusted gross income of -13.3 percent between 2001 and 2011 while the comparable figure for persons earning \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 was a gain of 51.9 percent, and

Whereas, as reported in the *Barre Montpelier Times Argus*, the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition recently released a report, "Out of Reach 2013," which estimated that 63 percent of Vermont renters cannot afford the \$964.00 monthly fair market price for a two-bedroom apartment, and

Whereas, Vermont's childhood poverty rate has increased 50 percent during the past decade, and

Whereas, according to Hunger Free Vermont, 13 percent of all Vermont households are food insecure, 22 percent of the state's children under age 18 live in food insecure households, and 12,290 Vermont children depend on food shelves each month, and

Whereas, individuals who are dedicated to reducing and ultimately eliminating poverty in Vermont are gathered at the State House today, May 1, 2013, to inform legislators about the existence and ramifications of poverty in Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 1, 2013 as Poverty Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Business Roundtable, and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.