

H.248

Introduced by Representatives Greshin of Warren, Devereux of Mount Holly,
Scheuermann of Stowe and Smith of Mendon

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General provisions; state sport; skiing and snowboarding

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to designate skiing and
snowboarding as the official Vermont state sports.

An act relating to designating skiing and snowboarding as the official state
sports

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

In recognition of the importance that sports and fitness can play in the
personal lives of Vermonters and in the economic well-being of the state, the
general assembly finds:

(1) The history of skiing and snowboarding is heavily linked to
Vermont.

(2) In 1934, the country's first ski area opened near Woodstock when
the first rope tow ski lift was installed on Clinton Gilbert's farm. This was
followed by many other historical Vermont firsts in the ski industry, including

1 the nation's first ski race which was held on Mount Mansfield in 1934, the
2 nation's first J-bar lift which was installed at Bromley Ski Area in 1936, the
3 nation's first ski patrol which was established at Stowe Ski Area in 1936, the
4 nation's first T-bar lift which was installed at Pico Peak Ski Area in 1937, and
5 the nation's first major chair lift which was installed at the Stowe Ski Area in
6 1940.

7 (3) In 1938, C. Minot Dole founded the National Ski Patrol in Vermont.
8 Dole later used the National Ski Patrol model to convince the U.S. Army to
9 activate a division of American mountain soldiers on skis, known as the 10th
10 Mountain Division. Approximately 240 Vermonters served in the famed
11 winter warfare division during World War II, with a dozen killed in action in
12 the battle against the Germans in the Italian Alps.

13 (4) In 1952, Rutland's Andrea Mead-Lawrence, whose parents ran Pico
14 Mountain, became the first American woman to win two Olympic gold medals
15 in skiing. Stowe's Billy Kidd won the silver medal at the 1964 Innsbruck
16 Olympics and the gold and bronze medals at the 1970 World Championships.
17 The skiing Cochrans—Barbara Ann, Lindy, Marilyn, and
18 Bobby—from Richmond dominated the world racing scene in the 1960s and
19 1970s, with Barbara Ann winning the gold medal at the 1972 winter Olympics.
20 Nordic skier Bill Koch, from Brattleboro, skied in four Olympics—1976,
21 1980, 1984, and 1992. Koch won the 1976 silver medal, a first for an

1 American Nordic skier. He won a bronze medal in the 1982 Federation
2 Internationale de Ski Nordic World Championships and a bronze medal in the
3 1982 World Cup Championships.

4 (5) Vermont is home to many public schools, academies, and colleges
5 that are world-class training grounds for skiing and snowboarding.

6 (6) In 1982, the Suicide Six Resort in Pomfret was the first resort in the
7 United States to allow snowboarding. In 1985, when Stratton Mountain
8 introduced snowboarding, only five percent of ski areas in the country
9 permitted snowboarding. Today, 97 percent of ski areas in the nation welcome
10 snowboarders on their slopes.

11 (7) In the 1980s, Vermont was the first state in the country to host what
12 is now known as a snowboard park at the Sonnenberg Ski Area in Barnard.

13 (8) The U.S. Open for Snowboarding is held in Vermont. This event is
14 the renowned first competition for snowboarding and offers an exciting
15 opportunity to watch the world's best snowboarders exhibiting their skills.

16 (9) Vermonters have won two gold medals in snowboarding in the last
17 three winter Olympic games.

18 (10) The United States Olympic Committee named Hannah Teter of
19 Belmont the 2006 Sportswoman of the Year, the top honor conferred by the
20 committee.

1 (11) The United States Olympic Committee named former United States
2 Halfpipe Head Coach Bud Keene of Stowe the 2006 National Coach of the
3 Year.

4 (12) In 1977, Vermonter Jake Burton Carpenter founded a snowboard
5 company in his barn and perfected the technology to build snowboards.
6 Today, this Burlington-based company is the worldwide leader in the
7 manufacture and sale of snowboards. Jake and Donna Burton Carpenter were
8 inducted into the United States National Ski and Snowboarding Hall of Fame
9 in 2007.

10 (13) Increasingly, there are an alarmingly high number of obese children
11 in the United States. Both skiing and snowboarding promote healthy outdoor
12 exercise for children, their parents, and people of all ages.

13 (14) Vermont historically ranks as the third largest ski and snowboard
14 state, with over four million snowboarder and skier visits per year.

15 (15) Skiing and snowboarding at Vermont's ski areas are a critical part
16 of the Vermont economy, heritage, and way of life.

17 (16) Designating skiing and snowboarding as the Vermont state sports
18 will encourage individuals to travel to Vermont to ski and snowboard where
19 they will patronize local hotels and restaurants and purchase Vermont goods
20 and services.

- 1 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 516 is added to read:
- 2 § 516. STATE SPORTS
- 3 The state sports shall be skiing and snowboarding.