

House Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

71st DAY OF BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P. JM.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 232 Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Adjustment 557

Third Reading

H. 16 Relating to Deer Doing Damage to Forest Resources..... 562

H. 131 Amendment to Charter of Cold Brook Fire District No. 1..... 562

H. 160 Approval of Charter of the Town of Hartford..... 562

H. 204 Payment of Diversion Program Fees..... 562

Favorable with Amendment

H. 83 Underground Storage Tanks and Petroleum Cleanup Fund..... 562

Rep. Fagan for Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources

Rep. Sharpe for Ways and Means..... 563

Rep. Morley for Appropriations..... 564

H. 135 Wireless Communications Facilities..... 565

Rep. Shand for Commerce and Economic Development..... 565

H. 145 Relating to Composting..... 565

Rep. Spengler for Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bills for Second Reading

H. 348 Relating to Interstate Pest Control Compact 569

Rep. Toll for Agriculture

H. 427 Miscellaneous Amendments to Education Law 569

Rep. Mook for Education

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

J.R.S. 22 Joint Assembly for Judicial Retention..... 569

To Be Offered

H.R. 10 Designating March as Professional Social Work Month 569

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 232

An act relating to the fiscal year 2009 budget adjustment.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 15, by striking out the figure “917,330,704” where it twice appears and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 921,131,468 and by striking out the figure “76,506,839” and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 77,189,310 and by striking out the figure “629,035,365” and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 632,153,658

Second: In Sec. 46, by striking out the figure “465,265,683” and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 465,694,096 and by striking out the figure “23,063,620” and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 23,132,361 and by striking out the figure “1,010,911,056” and inserting in lieu thereof the figure 1,010,413,902

Third: By striking out Sec. 69 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 69 to read as follows:

Sec. 69. CARRY FORWARD AUTHORITY

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and subject to the approval of the secretary of administration, general, transportation and education fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2009 in the executive branch of state government shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, general and transportation fund appropriations remaining unexpended on June 30, 2009 in the legislative and judicial branch of state government shall be carried forward and shall be designated for expenditure.

Fourth: After Sec. 83, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 83a to read as follows:

Sec. 83a. FEDERAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUNDS

(a) The secretary of administration is authorized, in fiscal year 2009, to obligate up to 51 percent of the federal funds allocated to the state under Division A - Title XII in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These funds may be allocated to transportation projects in the state's approved transportation program. This authority is granted for a period of 120 days following the Federal Highway Administration notice of apportionment of such funds. The secretary of administration shall report to the house and senate transportation committees or joint transportation oversight committee as requested on the projects for which funds have been obligated and the status of meeting the time constraints for obligating these funds as required by the federal legislation.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to all applicable federal rules and regulations, the secretary of transportation is authorized to obligate up to 75 percent of all Federal Transit Administration funds made available to the state by the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to all applicable federal rules and regulations, the secretary of transportation is authorized to request additional federal funds through any discretionary or competitive grant transportation program in the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009 with respect to projects in the state's approved transportation program.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 86 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 86 to read as follows:

Sec. 86. 16 V.S.A. § 2856(a) is amended to read:

(a) An active member of the Vermont army national guard or the air national guard may be eligible for an interest-free loan in an academic year for financial assistance to pay for tuition and fees for courses taken at a Vermont colleges, university, ~~or~~ regional technical center or other programs approved pursuant to policies adopted in accordance with subsection (f) of this section. Academic year awards may be up to the in-state tuition rate at the University of Vermont for that year. ~~Traditional airmen may receive academic year awards up to \$9,500.00 per year.~~

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 93 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 93 to read as follows:

Sec. 93. 32 V.S.A. § 305a(c) is amended to read:

(c) The January estimates shall include estimated caseloads and estimated per member per month expenditures for the current and next succeeding fiscal years for each Medicaid enrollment group as defined by the agency and the joint fiscal office for state health care assistance programs or premium

assistance programs supported by the state health care resources and Global Commitment funds, for VermontRx, and for the programs under the Choices for Care Medicaid Section 1115 waiver. For VPharm, the January estimates shall include estimated caseloads and estimated per-member per-month expenditures for the current and next succeeding fiscal years by income category. The January estimates shall include the expenditures for the current and next succeeding fiscal years for the Medicare Part D phased-down state contribution payment and for the disproportionate share hospital payments. In July, the administration and the joint fiscal office shall make a report to the emergency board on the most recently ended fiscal year for all Medicaid and Medicaid related programs including caseload and expenditure information for each Medicaid eligibility group. Based on this report, the emergency board may adopt revised estimates for the current and next succeeding fiscal year.

Seventh: In Sec. 101, Sec. 5.005(k), in the last sentence, by striking out the word “should” and inserting in lieu thereof the word shall

Eighth: After Sec. 104, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 104a to read as follows:

Sec. 104a. 26 V.S.A. § 2032(g) is amended to read:

(g)(1) The board may develop procedures to permit it to oversee, at no more than three locations and for no more than two years each in duration, pilot experiments for remote pharmacies. In addition, the board may develop a pilot experiment, for no more than two years in duration, to use telepharmacy to dispense prescriptions from secure automatic dispensing units at locations in Vermont recognized as a covered entity under Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act.

(2) On December 1 of each year, the board shall report to the house committee on health care and senate ~~committees~~ committee on ~~government operations~~ health and welfare its findings with regard to pilot experiments initiated in the previous calendar year. If the board determines that the pilot experiments should be extended statewide, the board shall include in its final report proposed rules governing remote pharmacy and telepharmacy practice.

Ninth: After Sec. 106, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 106a to read as follows:

Sec. 106a. Sec. 26 of No. 30 of the Acts of 2007, as amended by Sec. 5.902 of No. 192 of the Acts of 2008, is amended to read:

Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE DATES; IMPLEMENTATION

* * *

(b) The amendments to 33 V.S.A. chapter 11 contained in Secs. 2-13 (Reach Up), 14 (solely state-funded programs), and 16 (Reach Up transitions) of this act shall take effect immediately when the rule changes necessary to implement the sections become final, but no later than April 1, 2008. Until the time that the rule modifications are final, the Reach Up program shall operate under current law. Any provisions in these sections relating to Reach Ahead shall take effect as soon as possible but no later than on April 1, 2009 July 1, 2009.

* * *

(d) Reach First established in Sec. 1 of this act shall be implemented no later than April 1, 2008. Reach Ahead established in Sec. 18 shall be implemented for families who leave Reach Up on or after ~~April 1, 2009~~ October 1, 2010, as provided for in 33 V.S.A. § 1203(1). Subject to appropriation, Reach Ahead shall be implemented for all other families as provided for in 33 V.S.A. § 1203 no later than ~~July 1, 2009~~ October 1, 2009.

* * *

Tenth: By striking out Sec. 110 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 110 to read as follows:

Sec. 110. Sec. 5.224(f) of No. 192 of the Acts of 2008 is added to read:

(f) In fiscal year 2009, the secretary of administration may upon recommendation of commissioner of corrections transfer unexpended funds between the respective appropriations for correctional services and for correctional services – out-of-state beds. At least three days prior to any such transfer being made, the secretary shall report the intended transfer to the joint fiscal office and shall report any completed transfers to the joint fiscal committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Eleventh: At the end of Sec. 121(a) by adding the following sentence:

The assistant judges of Bennington County shall maintain offices for the newly formed district in the former districts which may be used by the probate court full or part time to provide access to probate services.

Twelfth: At the end of Sec. 125(a), by adding the following sentence:

The assistant judges of these counties shall maintain offices for the newly formed district in the former districts which may be used by the probate court full or part time to provide access to probate services.

Thirteenth: By inserting three new sections to be numbered Sec. 128, Sec. 129 and Sec. 130 to read as follows:

Sec. 128. 30 V.S.A. § 203a is amended to read:

§ 203a. FUEL EFFICIENCY FUND

(a) Fuel efficiency fund. There is established the fuel efficiency fund to be administered by a fund administrator appointed by the board. Balances in the fund shall be ratepayer funds, shall be used to support the activities authorized in this subdivision, and shall be carried forward and remain in the fund at the end of each fiscal year. These monies shall not be available to meet the general obligations of the state. Interest earned shall remain in the fund. The fund shall contain such sums as appropriated by the general assembly or as otherwise provided by law, ~~in addition to revenues from the sale of credits under the RGGI cap and trade program established under section 255 of this title.~~

* * *

Sec. 129. 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(8) is added to read:

(8) Effective January 1, 2010, net proceeds above costs from the sale of carbon credits under section 255 of this title shall be deposited into the electric efficiency fund established by this section and be used by the entity or entities appointed under subdivision (2) of this subsection to deliver fossil fuel energy efficiency services to Vermont heating and process-fuel consumers to help meet the state's building efficiency goals established by 10 V.S.A. § 581.

Sec. 130. 30 V.S.A. § 255(d) is amended to read:

(d) Appointment of consumer trustees. The public service board, by rule, order, or competitive solicitation, may appoint one or more consumer trustees to receive, hold, bank, and sell tradable carbon credits created under this program. Trustees may include Vermont electric distribution utilities, the fiscal agent collecting and disbursing funds to support the statewide efficiency utility, or a financial institution or other entity with the expertise and financial resources to manage a portfolio of carbon credits for the long-term benefit of Vermont energy consumers. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, Proceeds net proceeds above costs from the sale of carbon credits shall be deposited into the fuel electric efficiency fund established under section 203a subsection 209(d)(2) of this title for use as specified in subsection 209(d)(8) of this title.

Fourteenth: By striking out Sec. 75 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 75 to read as follows:

Sec. 75. REINSTATEMENT OF MEDICAID CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

(a) The office of Vermont health access shall restore chiropractic services in the Medicaid program effective April 1, 2009 that were eliminated in the rescission actions of the joint fiscal committee on December 19, 2008. The

funds allocated for this include \$81,193 of the general funds and \$156,352 of the federal funds appropriated in Sec. 15 of this act and \$237,545 global commitment funds appropriated in Sec. 18 of this act.

(b) The office of Vermont health access shall reinstate chiropractic services effective April 1, 2009 through the emergency rulemaking process contained in section 844 of Title 3. The general assembly deems this reinstatement to meet the public health, safety, or welfare requirement in subsection 844(a) of Title 3.

Fifteenth: By striking out Sec. 18 and inserting in lieu there of a new Sec. 18 to read as follows:

Sec. 18. Sec. 2.207 of No. 192 of the Acts of 2008 is amended to read:

Sec. 2.207. Office of Vermont health access - Medicaid program - Global Commitment

Grants	461,385,056	<u>468,105,861</u>
Source of funds		
Global Commitment fund	461,385,056	<u>468,105,861</u>

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

Third Reading

H. 16

An act relating to deer doing damage to forest resources.

H. 131

An act relating to codification of and approval of an amendment to the charter of Cold Brook Fire District No. 1.

H. 160

An act relating to approval of the charter of the town of Hartford.

H. 204

An act relating to payment of diversion program fees.

Favorable with Amendment

H. 83

An act relating to underground storage tanks and the petroleum cleanup fund.

Rep. Fagan of Rutland City, for the Committee on **Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources**, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 9-0-0)

Rep. Sharpe of Bristol, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 1922, by striking all after the “(15)” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “Public building” shall have the same meaning as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730.

Second: In Sec. 4, 10 V.S.A. § 1941, subsection (g), by deleting the word “which” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “who” and by striking “\$200,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$300,000.00”

Third: In Sec. 5, 10 V.S.A. § 1942, by striking subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) There is assessed against every seller receiving more than \$10,000.00 annually for the retail sale of heating oil ~~or~~, kerosene, low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel, or ultra-low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel sold in this state and not used to propel a motor vehicle, a licensing fee of one-half cent per gallon of such heating oil ~~or~~, kerosene, low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel, or ultra-low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel. This fee shall be subject to the collection, administration, and enforcement provisions of chapter 233 of Title 32, and the fees collected under this subsection by the commissioner of taxes shall be deposited into the petroleum cleanup fund. The secretary, in consultation with the Vermont Petroleum Association and the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association, Inc. shall annually determine whether or not to assess the one-half cent licensing fee for the upcoming year. If the unencumbered balance of heating fuel account of the fund established under subsection 1941(a) of this title is equal to or greater than \$3,000,000.00, then the one-half cent licensing assessment for the upcoming year shall not be assessed. If the unencumbered balance in the fund is less than ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$3,000,000.00, then the annual fee may be assessed. The secretary shall notify all sellers assessing this fee of the status of the fee for the upcoming year. This fee provision shall terminate April 1, ~~2011~~ 2016.

Fourth: In Sec. 7, by striking Sec. 7 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 7 to read:

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(d)(3) is amended to read:

(3) to any person who inquires, provided that the information is limited to whether a person is registered to collect Vermont income withholding, sales and use, or meals and rooms tax; whether a person is in good standing with respect to the payment of these taxes; whether a person is authorized to buy or

sell property free of tax; or whether a person holds a valid license under ~~chapters 201,~~ chapter 205, or 239 of this title or section 1942 of Title 10;

Fifth: In Sec. 8, by striking all after the word “shall” where it first appears, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“determine whether the fees assessed pursuant to subsections 1942(a) and (b) of Title 10 should be collected by the department of motor vehicles or the department of taxes, develop a plan for implementing a single-agency collection, and present the plan to the general assembly on or before October 10, 2009.”

Sixth: By adding a Sec. 9 to read:

Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 2503(a) is amended to read:

(a) There is imposed a gross receipts tax of 0.5 percent on the retail sale of the following types of fuel by sellers receiving more than \$10,000.00 annually for the sale of such fuels:

- (1) heating oil and kerosene not used to propel a motor vehicle;
- (2) propane;
- (3) natural gas;
- (4) electricity;
- (5) coal;

(6) low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel not used for agricultural purposes which are exempt under 23 V.S.A. § 3003(d)(1)(B); and

(7) ultra-low sulfur non-highway diesel fuel not used for agricultural purposes which are exempt under 23 V.S.A. § 3003(d)(1)(B).

Seventh: By adding a Sec. 10 to read:

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

(Committee vote: 10-0-1)

Rep. Morley of Barton, for the Committee on **Appropriations,** recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on **Ways and Means.**

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 135

An act relating to wireless communication facilities and project approvals for municipal and cooperative utilities.

Rep. Shand of Weathersfield, for the Committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**, recommends the bill be amended as follows:

In Sec. 1, 30 V.S.A. § 248(n)(2) by striking the underlined language: “but do not include system control and data acquisition equipment used by utilities for intra- and interutility communications” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “but do not include equipment used by utilities exclusively for intra- and inter-utility communications.”

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

H. 145

An act relating to composting.

Rep. Spengler of Colchester, for the Committee on **Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

When used in this chapter:

* * *

(3)(A) “Development” means:

* * *

(D) The word “development” does not include:

* * *

(vi) The construction of improvements below the elevation of 2,500 feet for the on-site storage, preparation, and sale of compost, provided that:

(I) The compost is produced from no more than 100 cubic yards of material per year;

(II) The compost is principally produced on the farm;

(III) The compost is principally used on the farm where it was produced; or

(IV) The compost is made only from clean, high carbon bulking agents from any source and manure produced on the farm.

(E) When development is proposed to occur on a parcel or tract of land that is devoted to farming activity as defined in subdivision 6001(22) of this section, only those portions of the parcel or the tract that support the development shall be subject to regulation under this chapter. Permits issued under this chapter shall not impose conditions:

(i) on other portions of the parcel or tract of land which do not support the development and ;or

(ii) that restrict or conflict with accepted agricultural practices adopted by the secretary of agriculture, food and markets.

* * *

(31) "Compost" means a stable humus-like material produced by the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter through active management, but shall not mean sewage or septage or materials derived from sewage or septage.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 6605h is added to read:

§ 6605h. SOLID WASTE REGISTRATION

(a) Notwithstanding sections 6605, 6605f, and 6611 of this title, the secretary may, by rule, authorize a person engaged in the following activities to register with the secretary instead of obtaining a facility certification under section 6605 or 6605c of this title:

(1) construction, alteration, or operation of a facility managing certain solid waste categories; or

(2) construction, alteration, or operation of a facility producing or managing compost, as that term is defined in subdivision 6001(31) of this title.

(b) This section shall not apply to the storage, treatment, or disposal of:

(1) Municipal solid waste;

(2) Sludge;

(3) Septage; or

(4) Mineral processing waste. For purposes of this section, mineral processing waste means solid waste from an industrial or manufacturing facility that processes materials from a mining activity and where chemicals, as

defined by the secretary by rule, are intentionally added as a part of that processing.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 6605j is added to read:

§ 6605j. ACCEPTED COMPOSTING PRACTICES

(a) The secretary shall adopt by rule, pursuant to chapter 25 of Title 3, and shall implement and enforce accepted composting practices for the management of composting in the state. These accepted composting practices may include standards for:

(1) Facility operation, including acceptable quantities of product or inputs, vector management, odors, noise, traffic, litter control, contaminant management, operator training and qualifications, recordkeeping, and reporting;

(2) Siting of composting facilities, including siting and operation of compost storage areas, compost bagging areas, and roads and parking areas;

(3) The composting process, including rotation, management of compost piles, compost pile size, and monitoring of compost operations;

(4) Management of runoff from compost facilities, including liquids management from the feedstock area, active composting areas, curing area, and compost storage area; the use of swales or stormwater management around or within a compost facility; vegetative buffer requirements; and run-off management from tipping areas.

(b) A person operating a small scale composting facility or operating a composting facility on a farm who follows the accepted composting practices shall not be required to obtain a discharge permit under section 1263 or 1264 of this title, a solid waste facility certification under chapter 159 of this title, or an air emissions permit under chapter 23 of this title unless a permit is required by federal law or the secretary of natural resources determines that a permit is necessary to protect public health or the environment.

(c) The secretary of natural resources shall coordinate with the secretary of agriculture, food and markets in implementing and enforcing the accepted composting practices. The secretary of agriculture, food and markets and the secretary of natural resources may, after opportunity for public review and comment, develop a memorandum of understanding for implementation and enforcement of the accepted composting practices.

(d) For purposes of this section, “small-scale composting facility” means a facility that:

(1) is located on a tract of land of no more than four acres in size; and

(2) uses no more than 5,000 cubic yards of total organics per year in the production of compost, including no more than 2,000 cubic yards per year of food residuals.

Sec. 4. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT ON RULES
FOR ACCEPTED COMPOSTING PRACTICES

Prior to filing a final proposal of rules under section 841 of Title 3, the agency of natural resources shall submit to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the senate committee on natural resources and energy, and the house and senate committees on agriculture the proposed final rules required under 10 V.S.A. § 6605j for accepted composting practices. The house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the senate committee on natural resources and energy, and the house and senate committees on agriculture shall review the proposed final rules and shall recommend whether the proposed final rules should be amended or whether the proposed final rules should be filed with the secretary of state and the legislative committee on administrative rules under section 841 of Title 3. If the general assembly is not in session when the agency of natural resources is prepared to file a final proposal of rules addressing accepted composting practices, the agency may submit the proposed rules to the secretary of the senate, the clerk of the house, and the chairs of the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the senate committee on natural resources and energy, and the house and senate committees on agriculture.

Sec. 5. COMPOSTING STUDY COMMITTEE

(a) On or before July 1, 2009, the agency of natural resources shall reconvene the composting study committee established by No. 130 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008) to review the application of Act 250, 10 V.S.A. chapter 151, to composting facilities in the state and to recommend whether composting facilities or categories of composting facilities should be exempt from Act 250. The committee shall issue a final report of its findings to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the senate committee on natural resources and energy, and the house and senate committees on agriculture by January 15, 2010.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the composting study committee shall consist of the members appointed under the requirement of No. 130 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008) and:

(1) a member of the house, appointed by the speaker of the house;

(2) a member of the senate, appointed by the committee on committees;

and

(3) a member of an environmental organization, appointed by the speaker of the house.

(Committee vote: 8-0-0-)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bills for Second Reading

H. 348

An act relating to interstate pest control compact.

(Rep. Toll of Danville will speak for the Committee on Agriculture.)

H. 427

An act relating to making miscellaneous amendments to education law.

(Rep. Mook of Bennington will speak for the Committee on Education.)

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

J. R. S. 22

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of three Superior Judges, and one District Judge.

The Senate has concurred in the House proposal of amendment with a proposal of amendment as follows:

By striking out the following: “ten o’clock” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: eight o’clock

To Be Offered

H.R. 10

House resolution designating March as Professional Social Work Month

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Andrews of Rutland City, Donahue of Northfield, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, O’Donnell of Vernon and Orr of Charlotte

Whereas, professional social workers have the education and experience to guide individuals, families, and communities through complex issues and choices, and

Whereas, these highly trained and compassionate individuals enable people to help themselves and to build on existing strengths to improve their lives, and

Whereas, professional social workers work in hospitals; mental health centers, public, private, and nonprofit agencies; veterans and military facilities, and corporations, and

Whereas, they provide more mental health support services than all other licensed providers combined, and

Whereas, professional social workers strive to achieve social justice and to improve the quality of life for everyone, and

Whereas, the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has over 525 members, is one of 56 chapters of a national organization of 150,000 members, and its members follow a professional code of ethics, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for professional social workers is expected to grow rapidly, especially for the provisions of services related to elders, home health care, substance abuse treatment, and in schools, and

Whereas, social work is a profession with a social purpose and a broad range of career possibilities and, due to retirements as well as an increased need, Vermont is likely to face a shortage of professional social workers within a decade, and

Whereas, Vermont's professional social workers deserve recognition for their commitment and dedication to individuals, families, and communities through service delivery, research, education, and legislative advocacy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body designates March as Professional Social Work Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rilla Murray, executive director of the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.