

1 H.365

2 Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Crawford of Burke,
3 Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Eckhardt of Chittenden, Hebert
4 of Vernon, Komline of Dorset, Larocque of Barnet, Lewis of
5 Berlin, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry,
6 Myers of Essex, Olsen of Jamaica, Pugh of South Burlington,
7 Wilson of Manchester and Young of Albany

8 Referred to Committee on

9 Date:

10 Subject: General provisions; state sport; skiing and snowboarding

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

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

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

16 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

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

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

3 (2) In 1934, the country's first ski area opened near Woodstock when
4 the first rope tow ski lift was installed on Clinton Gilbert's farm. This was
5 followed by many other historical Vermont firsts in the ski industry, including
6 the nation's first ski race which was held on Mount Mansfield in 1934, the
7 nation's first J-bar lift which was installed at Bromley Ski Area in 1936, the
8 nation's first ski patrol which was established at Stowe Ski Area in 1936, the
9 nation's first T-bar lift which was installed at Pico Peak Ski Area in 1940, and
10 the nation's first major chair lift which was installed at the Stowe Ski Area in
11 1940.

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

18 (4) In 1952, Rutland's Andrea Mead-Lawrence, whose parents ran Pico
19 Mountain, became the first American woman to win two Olympic gold medals
20 in skiing. Stowe's Billy Kidd won the silver medal at the 1964 Innsbruck
21 Olympics and the gold and bronze medals at the 1970 World Championships.

1 The skiing Cochrans—Barbara Ann, Lindy, Marilyn, and Bobby—from
2 Richmond dominated the world racing scene in the 1960s and 1970s, with
3 Barbara Ann winning the gold medal at the 1972 winter Olympics. Nordic
4 skier Bill Koch, from Brattleboro, skied in four Olympics—1976, 1980, 1984,
5 and 1992. Koch won the 1976 silver medal, a first for an American Nordic
6 skier, a bronze medal in the 1982 Federation Internationale de Ski Nordic
7 World Championships, and a bronze medal in the 1982 World Cup
8 Championships. Most recently, at the 2010 Winter Olympics, Hannah
9 Kearney of Norwich won the gold medal in the women’s freestyle skiing
10 event.

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

13 (6) In 1982, the Suicide Six Resort in Pomfret was the first resort in the
14 United States to allow snowboarding.

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

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

1 (9) At the 2002 Winter Olympics, Ross Powers of Stratton and Kelly
2 Clark of Dorset won the men's and women's gold medal respectively in the
3 snowboarding halfpipe event.

4 (10) The United States Olympic Committee named Hannah Teeter of
5 Belmont, the 2006 Winter Olympics women's halfpipe gold medalist, as the
6 2006 Sportswoman of the Year, the top honor that the committee confers. She
7 returned to the Winter Olympics in 2010 to win a silver medal in the women's
8 halfpipe while Kelly Clark followed immediately behind her in the
9 competition, capturing the bronze medal.

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

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

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

1 (14) Vermont historically ranks as the third largest ski and snowboard
2 state, with over four million snowboarder and skier visits per year, and both
3 sports are a critical part of our state's economy, heritage, and way of life.

4 (15) Designating skiing and snowboarding as the Vermont state sports
5 will encourage individuals to travel to Vermont to ski and snowboard where
6 they will patronize local hotels and restaurants and purchase Vermont goods
7 and services.

8 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 516 is added to read:

9 § 516. STATE SPORTS

10 The state sports shall be skiing and snowboarding.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2011.