

**No. R-172. House concurrent resolution recognizing April, 2015, as Fair Housing Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.129)

Offered by: House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs

Whereas, for generations, millions of Americans were denied the housing of their choice because of factors such as race, ethnicity, or religion, and

Whereas, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, including Title VIII, known as the Fair Housing Act, and

Whereas, Vermont's Fair Housing Act, enacted in 1987 and expanded in subsequent legislative acts, now prohibits discrimination in the rental or sale of housing based on "race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance," making this law more protective than the federal statutes and among the most comprehensive in the nation, and

Whereas, despite both these federal and State legal guarantees, the dilemma of housing discrimination in Vermont has not disappeared, and

Whereas, a recent HUD-funded Vermont Legal Aid investigation of housing practices documented some significant housing access barriers in Vermont for persons based on their race or national origin and for persons either living with children or who have disabilities, and

Whereas, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 137 created new incentives for mobile home park development as a way to increase the availability of affordable housing, and

Whereas, this act strengthened the antidiscrimination requirements of mobile home park leases and

Whereas, the same act also added a new statutory provision banning municipal planning policies that discriminate against affordable housing, and

Whereas, the Governor's designation of April as Fair Housing Month highlights the crucial, but unfinished, effort to eliminate all vestiges of housing discrimination in Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April, 2015, as Fair Housing Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Human Rights Commission.