No. R-193. Joint resolution relating to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation's lending authority.

(J.R.S.20)

By Senator Cummings,

Whereas, for over 30 years, the costs of attending college have risen beyond the rate of inflation, making access to postsecondary education less affordable for Vermonters and forcing more students and their parents to take on significant debt to finance a college education, and

Whereas, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) has developed a nonfederal loan program known as the Advantage Loan, using tax-exempt bonds that VSAC issues to help students and parents find more affordable higher education loans and to refinance previously issued higher education loans, and

Whereas, an ambiguity in the Internal Revenue Code has created uncertainty as to whether VSAC may use tax-exempt bonds to achieve lower rates for both types of higher education loans, and

Whereas, the Vermont Congressional Delegation has collaborated with VSAC to develop strategies to resolve this legal ambiguity, and

Whereas, resolving this legal ambiguity could be accomplished with appropriate clarifying actions from the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, or Congress, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Vermont Congressional Delegation for its collaborative effort with VSAC to lower the costs of higher education loans for Vermonters, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges the Vermont Congressional Delegation to continue to work diligently with the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and both houses of Congress to take whatever appropriate measures are needed to enable VSAC to use tax-exempt bonds to make new, and to refinance existing, higher education loans, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the VSAC and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.