

No. R-226. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont Law School as it celebrates its 40th commencement.

(H.C.R.172)

Offered by: Representatives Buxton of Tunbridge, Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Canfield of Fair Haven, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Emmons of Springfield, Forguites of Springfield, French of Randolph, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Graham of Williamstown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Potter of Clarendon, Rachelson of Burlington, Ryerson of Randolph, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Strong of Albany, Sweaney of Windsor, Tate of Mendon, Trieber of Rockingham, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Benning, Bray, Campbell, Campion, Flory, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Sears, and White

Whereas, since the 1970s, Vermont Law School (VLS), located in South Royalton, has contributed significantly to the legal and environmental communities in our State and nation, and

Whereas, the VLS campus consists of 13 acres with 19 repurposed historic properties—some having garnered historic preservation awards—and in 2010 VLS designated the entire campus as an established arboretum, and

Whereas, VLS was focused originally on educating students aspiring to careers in the general practice of law, but a number of specialized academic offerings have added greater luster to the school's national and even international reputation, and

Whereas, the Environmental Law Center (ELC), established in 1978, boasts a nationally recognized compendium of courses, institutes, and research centers focused on a broad array of environmentally related topics, and it offers special programs and lectures to an audience in addition to enrolled students, and

Whereas, this is the 25th year that *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked VLS as the number one or two environmental law program in the nation, and

Whereas, the VLS Institute for Energy and the Environment, the U.S-Asia Partnership for Environmental Law, and the Legal Center for Agriculture and Food Systems each contribute significantly to legal scholarship, public policy analysis, and the practice of law domestically and internationally, and

Whereas, VLS has been an educational gateway for legal leadership in State government and the private bar, and

Whereas, a recently released study from Kavet, Rockler & Associates documented that, in 2014, VLS contributed \$30 million of direct expenditures into the Vermont economy; the school employed 145 persons and 82 percent of its \$18 million payroll was paid to Vermont residents; the school's presence in Vermont resulted in an additional 245 in-State jobs beyond the campus; VLS students spent a total of \$12.2 million in Vermont during 2014, and

Whereas, on Saturday, May 16, 2015, on the South Royalton village green, VLS will celebrate with pride its 40th commencement, as the members of the Class of 2015 are presented their degrees, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont Law School as it celebrates its 40th commencement, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont Law School President Marc Mihaly.