

# State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



## Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 11

Joint resolution relating to the Vermont presidential primary

Offered by: Representatives Deen of Westminster and Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas, pursuant to State law, Vermont's presidential primary is held on the first Tuesday of March, and

Whereas, given both the date of the presidential primary, and the small number of delegates Vermont sends to the national political conventions, it attracts minimal national attention, and

Whereas, New Hampshire state law provides that its presidential primary will take place at least seven days before any other state's, and

Whereas, although the size of New Hampshire's national political convention delegations are only slightly larger than Vermont's, the Granite State derives far greater revenue and national publicity from its first-in-the-nation presidential primary, and

Whereas, in the months leading to primary day, presidential candidates are frequently present in the Granite State, and large numbers of out-of-state campaign staff and volunteers descend on New Hampshire; rent rooms, cars, and office space; and purchase food, gasoline, and many other items as does the large media contingent that accompanies the campaigns, and

Whereas, the extensive national and international media coverage places New Hampshire on the country's, and to a considerable degree, the world's center stage, and

Whereas, national broadcast and cable news programs originate from New Hampshire, offering not only political coverage, but also presenting tourist-enticing feature stories, and

Whereas, in light of the revenue generation, economic development, and tourist promotion potential of Vermont holding its presidential primary on the same date as New Hampshire's, when the candidates' campaign staff and the national media are already nearby, it is worthwhile for Vermont to examine this idea, and

Whereas, however, changing the date of the State's presidential primary does raise important fiscal, legal, and logistical issues, requiring careful examination, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly requests the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations, on or before December 15, 2015, on the fiscal, legal, and logistical issues related to Vermont's holding its presidential primary on the same day as New Hampshire's, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Elections Division of his office.