

No. R-342. Senate concurrent resolution designating Saturday, March 24, 2018 as Northeast Kingdom Day in Vermont.

(S.C.R.22)

By Senators Kitchel, Benning, Rodgers, and Starr,

By Representatives Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Higley of Lowell, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Quimby of Concord, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Toll of Danville, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Young of Glover,

Whereas, the northeastern corner of Vermont, a geographic territory encompassing Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties, is a special place, and

Whereas, in the 1940s, Newport publisher Wallace Gilpin and veteran Lyndon town moderator and periodic state legislator, W. Arthur Simpson, coined the phrase Northeast Kingdom that U.S. Senator George Aiken cited during a March 24, 1949 speech at the Darling Inn in Lyndonville, and

Whereas, the pace of life in the Northeast Kingdom is less hectic and more relaxed, reflecting the Kingdom's rural character, and farming and forestry play important roles in the region's economy, and

Whereas, traditional recreational pursuits, such as hunting and fishing, are abundant in the Northeast Kingdom as are other outdoor activities, including canoeing, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking, and

Whereas, the NorthWoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston and Kingdom Trails in East Burke are among the organizations that develop recreational opportunities and sponsor numerous educational and cultural activities, and

Whereas, at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, tourists and local residents alike delight in viewing the natural history exhibits and watching fascinating astronomy presentations at the Lyman Spitzer Jr. Planetarium; and thousands of Vermonters rely on the museum's Eye on the Sky weather reports, and

Whereas, the recently opened Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro is an architecturally impressive performing arts and exhibition center, and

Whereas, the Caledonia County Fair in Lyndonville, first held in 1855, and the Orleans County Fair in Barton, which in 2017 celebrated its 150th birthday, are late-summer attractions that draw crowds from near and far, serve as agricultural showcases, and are entertainment extravaganzas, and

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom is home to enterprising artists and craftspersons who provide a creative component for the region, and

Whereas, the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative recently announced a new initiative to promote the region's economic and leadership vibrancy, and

Whereas, there is much to delight in and be proud about in the Northeast Kingdom, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Saturday, March 24, 2018 as Northeast Kingdom Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce.