

**No. R-367. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont teams participating in the 2017–2018 FIRST robotics competitions.**

(H.C.R.295)

Offered by: Representatives Jickling of Randolph and Hooper of Randolph

Whereas, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a national nonprofit organization that conducts robotics competitions primarily intended to motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and

Whereas, students participating in FIRST competitions are taught to practice Gracious Professionalism, meaning they help members of opposing teams even though they are engaged in fierce competition, and the students are taught to act respectfully toward other students and advisors, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the FIRST organization's robotics competitions are conducted in partnership with the University of Vermont, Norwich University, Castleton State University, the Vermont Principals' Association, Essex High School, South Burlington High School, and Champlain Maker Faire Inc., and

Whereas, the four categories of FIRST competitions, the Vermont communities that fielded 2017–2018 FIRST teams, and the age bracket for each category are: FIRST LEGO League Jr. (ages 6–9), Barnet, Middletown Springs, Montpelier (three teams), Rutland, Shelburne (three teams), and South Burlington; FIRST LEGO League (ages 9–16), Berlin, Burlington (two teams), Canaan, Colchester, Montpelier (three teams), Northfield, South Burlington, Rutland (three teams), Westford, White River Junction (three teams), and Williston; FIRST Tech Challenge (ages 12–18), Bristol, Burlington, Canaan, East Montpelier, Essex Junction, Fairfax-Grand Isle, Hinesburg, Jericho, Milton, Randolph, Rutland, St. Albans, Saxtons River, and South Burlington (two teams); and FIRST Robotics Competition (ages 14–18), Randolph Center, Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Sharon, and White River Junction, and

Whereas, many of the teams have adopted creative names, incorporating high-tech terminology, humorous phrases, or school mascots, and

Whereas, today, March 30, 2018, Vermont students participating in FIRST competitions are visiting the State House, and their engagement in STEM-related educational activities is to be commended, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont teams participating in the 2017–2018 FIRST robotics competitions, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each team's sponsoring school and to the Vermont FIRST coordinator, Martha Hafner.