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H.551

Introduced by Representatives Townsend of South Burlington and Devereux
of Mount Holly

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General provisions; State flags; Green Mountain Boys Flag; State
House display

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct that the
Green Mountain Boys Flag shall be flown on the 15th day of January each
year under the U.S. Flag at the State House in Montpelier in observance of
Vermont's independence.

~~An act relating to flying the Green Mountain Boys Flag at the State House~~
flags and flag-flying protocol

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

On January 15, 1777, delegates from 28 towns that supported the military
and political leadership of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys
convened in the town of Westminster and declared the independence of the
territory, known as the New Hampshire Grants, from the British colony of
Quebec and the American states of New Hampshire and New York, adopting

1 the name New Connecticut (Vermont). The flying of the Green Mountain
2 Boys Flag at the State House in Montpelier, on the 15th day of January each
3 year, would commemorate this important event in the history of Vermont.

4 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 496 is amended to read:

5 § 496. STATE FLAGS, PURCHASE, DISTRIBUTION

6 (a) The Secretary of State shall obtain, through the Department of
7 Buildings and General Services, ~~obtain State Flags and a copy of the~~
8 ~~Bennington Battle Flag, so-called. He or she~~ The Secretary may, ~~in his or her~~
9 ~~discretion and on such terms as that~~ he or she finds appropriate, distribute ~~said~~
10 these State Flags to other states_; to State officials, departments, and agencies_;
11 ~~and to such other persons as he or she~~ the Secretary may determine should
12 ~~have receive them in the interest of the State. He or she shall cause the~~
13 ~~Bennington Battle Flag to be delivered to the custody of the Sergeant at Arms,~~
14 ~~to be flown at the State House in Montpelier, under the United States Flag, on~~
15 ~~the 15th, 16th, and 17th days of August in each year to commemorate the~~
16 ~~Battle of Bennington.~~

17 (b) ~~The Secretary of State shall furnish to the Division for Historic~~
18 ~~Preservation, under this section, one Vermont State Flag and one Bennington~~
19 ~~Battle Flag to be flown at the Bennington Battle Monument Area.~~

20 Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. § 496a is added to read:

21 § 496a. BENNINGTON BATTLE FLAG

1 The Secretary of State shall obtain, through the Department of Buildings
2 and General Services, two copies of the Bennington Battle Flag, one for
3 delivery to the Sergeant at Arms to be flown at the State House in Montpelier,
4 under the U.S. Flag, on the 15th, 16th, and 17th days of August each year to
5 commemorate the Battle of Bennington, and a second for delivery to the
6 Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, along with one Vermont State
7 Flag, to be flown at the Bennington Battle Monument Area.

8 Sec. 4. 1 V.S.A. § 496b is added to read:

9 § 496b. GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS FLAG

10 The Secretary of State shall obtain, through the Department of Buildings
11 and General Services, a copy of the Green Mountain Boys Flag for delivery to
12 the Sergeant at Arms to be flown at the State House in Montpelier, under the
13 U.S. Flag, on the 15th day of January each year to commemorate Vermont's
14 independence.

Sec. 5. 1 V.S.A. § 496c is added to read:

§ 496c. POW-MIA FLAG; FLYING ON STATE FLAGPOLES

The State of Vermont shall fly on State-owned flagpoles, where practicable,
the National League of Families Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Flag,
as designated in 36 U.S.C. § 189, provided the flag is donated.

Sec. 6. 1 V.S.A. § 496d is added to read:

§ 496d. FLAG PROTOCOL

The Department of Buildings and General Services shall adopt and update as necessary a protocol for the flying of any flag on a State-owned flagpole and on municipally owned flagpoles if statutorily directed. The protocol shall incorporate any existing flag-flying policies or protocols that the Department has previously adopted.

Sec. 7. REPEAL

29 V.S.A. § 7 (POW-MIA flag) is repealed.

1 Sec. ~~5~~8 . EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.