CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

HOUSE AND SENATE CALENDAR

Text of House and Senate Concurrent Resolutions

of

April 6, 2017
Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Representative or Senator requests floor consideration before the end of Friday’s legislative session. Requests for floor consideration must be communicated to the House Clerk’s office or the Senate Secretary’s office.

Resolutions

H.C.R. 97.

House concurrent resolution designating April 4, 2017 as Pay Equity Day in Vermont


Whereas, for more than 20 years, Equal Pay Day has symbolized how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year, due to the gender wage gap, and

Whereas, the median annual income for Vermont women working full-time year-round is $40,710.00 which is $7,906.00 less than that of men, representing a wage gap of 16 percent, and

Whereas, Vermont’s wage gap narrows to 14 percent when a woman has a college degree; and widens to 23 percent for working mothers with dependent children, and
Whereas, the wage gap is wider for LGBTQ individuals and transgender women’s wages drop by one-third after they transition, and whereas, women’s salaries are essential to the economic well-being of Vermont families as they contribute 40 percent of income in one-third of all family households, and more than 20,000 households are headed by single women, and

Whereas, occupational segregation, the uneven distribution of labor across and within sectors by gender, perpetuates the wage gap, and

Whereas, in 15 of 25 major occupational categories in Vermont, workers are either 70 percent male or 70 percent female, and

Whereas, Vermont has a projected increase in demand for talent in high-wage jobs in engineering, computer science, chemistry, and physics, but young women in the State are not enrolling in these college majors, and

Whereas, if women earned equal wages as comparable male workers, the poverty rate in Vermont would be reduced by 57 percent and the increase in wages for working women would equal $1 billion, equivalent to 3.3 percent of the state’s Gross Domestic Product, and

Whereas, pay equity is not just a women’s issue; it is vital to the future health and vitality of the Vermont economy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 4, 2017 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Commission on Women, the League of Women Voters of Vermont, and the Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women.

H.C.R. 98.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Vermont Comcast Scholars

Offered by: Representatives Johnson of South Hero, Beyor of Highgate, Bock of Chester, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Condon of Colchester, Dakin of Colchester, Emmons of Springfield, Forguites of Springfield, Frenier of Chelsea, Graham of Williamstown, Jessup of Middlesex, Keefe of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Nolan of Morristown, Pearce of Richford, Potter of Clarendon, Tate of Mendon, Taylor of Colchester, and Yacovone of Morristown

Whereas, the Comcast Corporation annually sponsors the Leaders and Achievers Scholarship program (Comcast Scholarships), and
Whereas, the philosophy of this scholarship program is to provide high school seniors every opportunity to prepare for the future and to engage in their local communities, and

Whereas, in financing these scholarships, the Comcast Corporation is emphasizing the importance of civic participation and its importance for the business community, and

Whereas, these scholarships are designed to help support the academic aspirations of students who are striving to achieve their full potential and are catalysts for positive changes in their communities, and

Whereas, each of the award recipients is actively involved in curriculum-based and extracurricular activities offered at their local schools, and

Whereas, these students serve as outstanding models for their peers, and

Whereas, since 2007, the Comcast Corporation has awarded nearly $200,000.00 worth of Comcast Scholarships to 145 Vermont students, and

Whereas, in 2017, Comcast Scholarships nationally will total more than $2 million, and over 2,000 students will benefit from these distinguished awards, and

Whereas, the 2017 scholarship recipients and their respective high schools are Reia Ashikawa (Arlington Memorial High School), Brieonna Bassette (Randolph Technical Career Center), Jason Drebber (Woodstock Union High School), Reilly Duggan (Proctor High School), Jillian Flanders (Otter Valley Union High School), Rachel Gervais (Colchester High School), Danielle Marasa (Springfield High School), McKenna Montminy (Peoples Academy), Lauren Morse (U-32 High School), Brooke Raiche (West Rutland School), Haeli Warren (South Burlington High School), and Megan Wetherby (Richford High School), and

Whereas, all of these outstanding high school seniors are worthy recipients of this special honor and will be recognized in a ceremony to be held on March 30, 2017 at the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2017 Vermont Comcast Scholars, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each student honored in this resolution.

H.C.R. 99.

House concurrent resolution designating April 2017 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Christie of Hartford, Howard of Rutland City, Scheuermann of Stowe, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Tate of Mendon, and Walz of Barre City
 Whereas, for generations, millions of Americans were denied the housing of their choice because of factors such as race, ethnicity, or religion, and

 Whereas, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, including Title VIII, known as the Fair Housing Act, and

 Whereas, Vermont’s fair housing statutes, originally enacted as part of 1987 Acts and Resolves No. 74, and since broadened and codified at 9 V.S.A § 4503, prohibit discrimination in the rental or sale of housing based on “race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance,” making this law more protective than the federal statutes and among the most comprehensive in the nation, and

 Whereas, Vermont has a proud and peaceful history of welcoming immigrants and refugees, and

 Whereas, on January 29, 2017, Governor Phil Scott issued a statement proclaiming Vermont’s continuing commitment to diversity, and welcoming everyone to our great State, and

 Whereas, despite both federal and State legal guarantees, in Vermont overt and disguised housing discrimination has not disappeared, and

 Whereas, for example, HUD-funded Vermont Legal Aid investigations of housing practices documented significant housing access barriers in Vermont for persons based on their race or national origin and for persons either living with children or who have disabilities, and

 Whereas, discrimination in housing on these grounds is an affront to human dignity and can negatively affect all aspects of a person’s life: from education, work, and health care to access to transportation, and

 Whereas, designating April as Fair Housing Month heightens covered classes’ awareness of their right to be protected against discrimination and of the importance of building thriving communities through policies of inclusiveness, and

 Whereas, fair housing advocates are visiting the State House today, April 4, 2017, to remind legislators of this important message, now therefore be it

 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

 That the General Assembly designates April 2017 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont, and be it further

 Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Human Rights Commission.
H.C.R. 100.

House concurrent resolution in memory of and tribute to Sally (Apalakian) Ovian of Rutland

Offered by: Representatives Cupoli of Rutland City, Donovan of Burlington, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Howard of Rutland City, and McCoy of Poulney

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, Sally Ovian, a graduate of Ohio University, was a cherished member of the teaching staff at Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) in Rutland for half a century, and

Whereas, in 1967, just one year after Congress enacted the Adult Education Act, declaring a federal commitment to the free education of adults 16 years of age or older, Sally Ovian began her half-century career as an adult educator, teaching night classes at the local high school to nonnative speakers, and

Whereas, Sally Ovian transitioned to a full-time adult educator, instructing students in basic academic skills, preparing them for the GED exam, and teaching English and citizenship classes, and

Whereas, she conveyed to her students a large measure of warmth and enthusiasm that inspired them to believe in themselves, and

Whereas, in 1993, Sally Ovian accompanied two of her students to Washington, D.C. for the first-ever Literacy Congress for adult learners, and these two students subsequently worked with her to establish a student advisory board at VAL in Rutland, a model that spread to all the VAL centers statewide, and

Whereas, in 1995, she encouraged fundraising that enabled two Vermont adult learners to attend the organizational meeting in Tennessee of the Voice of Adult Learners United for Education, and

Whereas, in 1996, Sally Ovian and the VAL Executive Director took two students to our nation’s Capital to testify on adult education before a Senate committee on which Vermont Senator James Jeffords sat, and her efforts resulted in subsequent advocacy trips to Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, every student aspiring to become an American who studied with Sally Ovian has achieved this special goal, and

Whereas, at a time when literacy financing was being reduced, she established Rutland’s Family Reading program, and

Whereas, Sally Ovian, who at 83 years of age had not retired, and her husband of 60 years, Charles, were the parents of Jeffrey, Rosemarie, and Matthew, and Sally and Charlie Ovian died in an auto accident on December 28, 2016, and this devoted wife, mother, and extraordinary educator has been described as a community saint, now therefore be it
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the Ovian family, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the Ovian family.

H.C.R. 101.

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard A. Fletcher of Putney for his health care career achievements and civic leadership

Offered by: Representatives Hebert of Vernon, Deen of Westminster, and Mrowicki of Putney

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, Richard Fletcher is a pioneering Vermont nurse practitioner, and

Whereas, originally from Quincy, Massachusetts, his attachment to northern New England developed while camping and hiking in the region, and

Whereas, in 1979, he earned his registered nurse certification from the former New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, and

Whereas, following a year at Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, he and his wife, Gail, moved to Montana where he was employed as a flight nurse and earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing at Montana State University, and

Whereas, Richard Fletcher advanced his nursing education at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, earning a master’s degree, with a focus on rural community health, and completing the family nurse practitioner program, and

Whereas, in 1986, the Fletchers returned to northern New England as Richard became a nurse practitioner at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and

Whereas, Richard Fletcher held various full- and part-time positions at rescue and urgent care health centers in both New Hampshire and Vermont, and in 1996, he became the owner of the Putney Medical Office-Practice (known as Putney Family Healthcare since 2011), and

Whereas, educating both health care volunteers and professionals has been a prime concern for Richard Fletcher, and he has taught courses for community organizations, been associated with a number of higher education institutions, and since 2001 served as an adjunct clinical professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, and

Whereas, his professional leadership roles have included the presidency of the Vermont Nurse Practitioner Association and representing Vermont in national nursing organizations, and
Whereas, in Putney, Richard Fletcher has served on the school board, as the health officer, and as an elder at the Genesis Church of the Brethren, and

Whereas, Richard Fletcher is concluding his distinguished health care career and looks forward to spending more time with his family, including his wife, three daughters, and four grandsons, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Richard A. Fletcher for his professional health care career achievements and civic leadership, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Richard Fletcher.

H.C.R. 102.

House concurrent resolution designating April 2017 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont

 Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Howard of Rutland City, Scheuermann of Stowe, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Tate of Mendon, and Walz of Barre City

Whereas, military children encounter special challenges with families regularly transferred across the country and overseas and parents deployed to dangerous combat assignments, and

Whereas, unlike most youngsters in civilian families, military children must regularly acculturate to new schools and communities and adjust to being separated from their parents, and

Whereas, military children have always been a vital part of their soldier parents’ lives, and

Whereas, in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices of military children, in 1986, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child, a commemoration that has continued for over three decades, and

Whereas, the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program (VTNG CYP), as do its counterpart programs operated throughout the U.S. Armed Forces, seeks “to provide a supportive environment for children and youth through activities and events specifically designed to encourage personal growth, strength of character and moral development in peacetime and through the cycles of deployment,” and
Whereas, in 2016, VTNG CYP oversaw over 700 hours of diverse programs for hundreds of youngsters, ranging from six to 17 years of age, whose parents serve in the Vermont Army or Air National Guard or on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, and

Whereas, among these programs were seven overnight camping opportunities, the seventh Annual VTNG Family Camp, and the tenth annual Vermont Remembers Fun Run, and

Whereas, high school and college students, and AmeriCorps members contributed over 225 volunteer hours in support of VTNG CYP’s activities, including the Region I Youth Symposium, and

Whereas, today, April 4, 2017, representatives of VTNG CYP are visiting the State House to remind everyone of this endeavor’s special role in the lives of military personnel and their children, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2017 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Major General Steven Cray and to the Vermont National Guard Child and Youth Program.

H.C.R. 103.

House concurrent resolution designating Tuesday, April 4, 2017 as National Service Day in Vermont

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is “a federal agency that helps more than five million Americans improve the lives of their fellow citizens through service,” and

Whereas, among the guiding principles of CNCS are to “put the needs of local communities first” and to “help rural and economically distressed communities obtain access to public and private resources,” and

Whereas, the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service (SerVermont) is the State’s partner with CNCS, and

Whereas, in Vermont, there are currently a total of 24 CNCS projects, including those under the rubric of AmeriCorps (AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps State Competitive, AmeriCorps State Formula, and AmeriCorps
VISTA), Senior Corps (Senior Corps, Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion Program), projects financed through the Social Innovation Fund, and miscellaneous programs, and

Whereas, there are 530 service locations statewide, including conservation and environmental organizations, counseling services, faith-based entities, food support services, housing trusts, municipalities, museums, public libraries, recreation projects, senior and aging programs, and shelters for the homeless, and

Whereas, 2,300 Vermont service volunteers are working at these organizations, earning educational scholarship funds for the volunteers’ future use, and

Whereas, in this fiscal year, CNCS is investing $6,200,000.00 in Vermont, and local host organizations are supplying $5,520,000.00; and

Whereas, since 1994, more than 5,100 Vermont residents have served more than 7.6 million hours and qualified for scholarship awards worth in excess of $17,860,000.00, and

Whereas, today, April 4, 2017, service volunteers are visiting the State House, and their good works are highly commendable, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 4, 2017 as National Service Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to SerVermont.

H.C.R. 104.

House concurrent resolution designating May 2017 as HOBY Youth Service Month in Vermont

Offered by: Representative Sibilia of Dover

Whereas, the mission of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) is “to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation,” and

Whereas, the Vermont chapter of HOBY (HOBY Vermont) has hosted an annual four-day leadership seminar for high school sophomores from around the State since 1983, and

Whereas, each year, over 100 students, called “ambassadors,” benefit from the inspiration of Vermont leaders in the fields of education, government, business, and the nonprofit sector, and
Whereas, through panels, keynote speakers, simulations, and team building exercises, HOBY Vermont promotes the core values of volunteerism, integrity, excellence, diversity, and community partnership, and

Whereas, HOBY Vermont empowers Vermont’s future leaders to make a positive difference in their communities, State, and nation through effective and compassionate leadership, and

Whereas, over the course of the seminar, HOBY ambassadors form lifelong relationships and partnerships with their peers, and

Whereas, HOBY Vermont is committed to promoting participation in community service projects that impact the lives of those in need, and

Whereas, through the Leadership for Service initiative of HOBY Vermont, ambassadors have completed 18,529.86 volunteers hours since January 2000 with 90 percent of these hours occurring in Vermont, and

Whereas, HOBY Vermont-inspired volunteer work has tallied an estimated overall economic impact of $427,484.00 in the past 16 years, and

Whereas, last year, 15 ambassadors from HOBY Vermont, each of whom completed over 100 volunteer service hours, were recipients of the President’s Volunteer Service Award, and their combined efforts totaled 2,041 hours, and

Whereas, the participants in HOBY Vermont programs have established the foundation for a lifelong commitment to leading and volunteering on worthy community service projects, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 2017 as HOBY Youth Leadership Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to HOBY Vermont.

H.C.R. 105.

House concurrent resolution congratulating 2017 New England wrestling champion Nick Johnson of Milton High School

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Joseph of North Hero, and Juskiewicz of Cambridge

Whereas, Nick Johnson is one of the top high school wrestlers in Vermont, and

Whereas, during his outstanding 2016–2017 wrestling season, he earned three wins at tournaments within the State, and

Whereas, at the Vermont State championship wrestling meet, Nick Johnson scored a strong second-place finish in the 220 lb. weight class, and
Whereas, while proud of this nearly top result, Nick Johnson was confident that, with greater concentration and effort, he was capable of a first-place performance on the highest competitive level, and

Whereas, the opportunity to prove his assumption was almost immediately at hand as the 2017 New England wrestling championship meet was fast approaching, and

Whereas, Nick Johnson focused carefully and applied his maximum effort to earn a well-deserved win in the 220 lb. weight class at this premier regional wrestling event, and

Whereas, with his New England victory, Nick Johnson concluded a fantastic 23–3 personal record during the recently concluded 2016–2017 wrestling season, and

Whereas, during his three years as a member of the Milton High School wrestling team, Nick Johnson has tallied an enviable 47–12 overall record, and he is anticipating another great set of results during his upcoming senior year, and

Whereas, while wrestling is a sport at which Nick Johnson excels, he also plays on his school’s football team and participates in varsity track and field competition, and

Whereas, when not engaged in athletic activities, Nick Johnson enjoys his membership in Boy Scout Troop 631, and

Whereas, his wrestling coaches Philip Bidwell and Jeff Ames are extremely proud of Nick Johnson’s accomplishments on the wrestling mat, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates 2017 New England wrestling champion Nick Johnson of Milton High School, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Nick Johnson, Philip Bidwell, and Jeff Ames at Milton High School.

H.C.R. 106.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Supported Employment Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities on winning the 2017 Innovative Policy Award on Employment, Work, and Vocational Education

Offered by: Representatives Wood of Waterbury, Gamache of Swanton, Haas of Rochester, Keefe of Manchester, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Pugh of South Burlington, Rosenquist of Georgia, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, in 1983, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL), in partnership with other State offices, the University of Vermont, and community providers established the Vermont Supported Employment Program (VSEP) as an initiative to move persons with developmental disabilities from segregated and sheltered employment paying substandard wages into more standard employment and competitive wages, and
Whereas, VSEP currently provides 1,260 Vermonters with developmental disabilities employment in a regular work environment, and

Whereas, based on a formula of VSEP-sponsored programs per 100 persons of a state’s population, Vermont has achieved a 48 percent employment rate, the highest in the nation and well above the national average of 35 percent, and

Whereas, in 2015, VSEP wages totaled $5,101,938.00, facilitating a corresponding reduction in Supplemental Security Income payments of $1,699,763.00, and

Whereas, in 2002, Vermont closed its last sheltered workshop, and

Whereas, the Zero Project is an international organization with a mission to eliminate all barriers for persons with disabilities, and the World Future Council promotes a society where universal rights are respected, and

Whereas, the two organizations presented DAIL and its VSEP partners the 2017 Innovative Policy Award on Employment, Work, and Vocational Education in recognition of VSEP’s superb leadership in supported employment for persons with developmental disabilities, and

Whereas, the Vermont Chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment First and the University of Vermont (UVM) funded a delegation consisting of Bryan Dague (UVM), Elizabeth Sightler (Champlain Community Services), and Lisa Culbertson (Upper Valley Services) to attend the Zero Project Conference at the United Nations in Vienna, Austria where the award was presented on February 23, 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Supported Employment Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities on being presented the 2017 Innovative Policy Award on Employment, Work, and Vocational Education, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the VSEP partnering organizations.
S.C.R. 12.

By Senators Campion and Sears,

By Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, and Morrissey of Bennington,

S.C.R. 12. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Stanley Rosen of North Bennington for his significant and continuing contributions to the ceramic arts.

Whereas, ceramicist Stanley Rosen influenced the mid-20th century movement to broaden clay’s use as a medium ideal for fine arts sculpture and not merely for utilitarian objects, and

Whereas, his artistic foundation was formed at the Rhode Island School of Design, where, in 1954, he earned a bachelor of fine arts, and at Alfred University, which conferred on him a graduate degree in 1956, and

Whereas, upon completing his studies, Stanley Rosen combined teaching and studio management at Greenwich House Pottery in New York City, and

Whereas, the lure of academia proved irresistible, and in 1960, Stanley Rosen departed the fast-paced life of New York City for the quieter and more contemplative environment of the Bennington College campus, becoming a faculty member specializing in ceramics, and

Whereas, for the next 31 years, Stanley Rosen’s was a talented and respected faculty member who for many years chaired Bennington College’s ceramics department, and

Whereas, his students created a cornucopia of diverse ceramics works, and he continued to expand his own artistic portfolio of unique and diverse clay sculptures, and

Whereas, at the time of his 1991 retirement from the faculty, Bennington College paid him a special farewell tribute when 71 of his former students contributed more than 156 pieces to the exhibition “Celebrating A Teacher: Works by the Students of Stanley Rosen,” and

Whereas, retirement from Bennington College was not synonymous with the conclusion of his trailblazing artistic career, and he established a studio in North Bennington, remaining busily engaged in ceramic adventures, and

Whereas, from November 2016 through March 2017, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City held a retrospective exhibit, and the Bennington Museum is now featuring the show “Holding the Line: Ceramic Sculpture by Stanley Rosen” in honor of his role as an innovative ceramic artist, now therefore be it
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Stanley Rosen of North Bennington for his significant and continuing contributions to the ceramic arts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Stanley Rosen.