

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ADDENDUM

TO THE

**SENATE AND HOUSE
CALENDARS**

**Text of Senate
Concurrent Resolutions**

of

Thursday, January 4, 2018

CONSENT CALENDAR
Concurrent Resolutions for Notice under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office and/or the House Clerk's Office, respectively.

S.C.R. 19.

By Senator Baruth,

S.C.R. 19. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Vermont outdoor advertising law of 1968.

Whereas, nearly a century ago, the General Assembly first addressed the aesthetic impact of outdoor advertising billboards, when it enacted 1921 Acts and Resolves No. 44, "An Act to Control the Use of Bill-Boards" that established a largely permissive regulatory scheme but limited a billboard's size to no greater than six square feet, and

Whereas, 1925 Acts and Resolves No. 32 amended the 1921 act to prohibit billboards "within fifty feet of any public park, playground, square or cemetery," except on-premises advertising and municipal or State traffic, directional, or public safety signs, and

Whereas, in 1937, following the placement of seven billboards in Springfield, billboard opponents formed the Vermont Association for Billboard Restriction, and the Springfield billboards proved short-lived, and

Whereas, in a 1943 ruling, *Kelbro, Inc. v. Myrick*, 113 Vt. 64, the Vermont Supreme Court rejected a challenge to the State's billboard regulatory scheme, describing it as "a regulation of the use of the streets and other public thoroughfares," and "not so much a regulation of private property," and

Whereas, 1957 Acts and Resolves No. 275 created a 750-foot exclusion zone for advertising adjacent to a limited-access highway, serving as a limitation, but hardly a prohibition, and

Whereas, opposition to billboards continued into the 1960s, culminating in the General Assembly's 1968 adoption of a comprehensive ban on traditional highway billboards, 1968 Acts and Resolves No. 333, that also repealed the existing, far more limited, outdoor advertising statutes and made Vermont the first state to ban traditional off-premises advertising billboards, and

Whereas, Act 333 enabled Vermont to preserve the scenic landscape views from the State's highways, replacing traditional billboards with limited

informational and directional signs that promote tourism and public safety, and ending the presence of the large, and at times distracting, billboards that had lined Vermont's highways since at least the early 1920s, and

Whereas, Act 333 has helped maintain Vermont's unique character and provided a precedent for other jurisdictions to remove billboards, and

Whereas, occasional efforts to weaken the principles of Act 333 have not derailed this historic law that in 2018 is marking a half-century in force, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 50th anniversary of Vermont's outdoor advertising law of 1968.

S.C.R. 20.

By Senators Rodgers and Starr,

By Representatives Strong of Albany and Young of Glover

S.C.R. 20. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Edward Knox LeClair for his outstanding service as Executive Director of Circus Smirkus.

Whereas, since 2003, Ed LeClair, a graduate of the University of Arkansas and of the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration of Dartmouth College, and expert Taiko drummer, has served as the highly respected executive director of Circus Smirkus, and

Whereas, when Ed LeClair arrived, Circus Smirkus was confronting a difficult financial situation, and drawing on his nonprofit performing arts managerial expertise, he restored the organization to solid fiscal health, and

Whereas, during his tenure, the Circus Smirkus summer camp enabled over 8,000 youngsters to experience the joys and challenges of circus life, and

Whereas, the Smirkus Residency program visits hundreds of schools, teaching circus arts skills and their applicability to daily life, and

Whereas, in recent years, Circus Smirkus has been featured on PBS, *The Martha Stewart Show*, *Fletch*, *America's Got Talent*, and at the Toronto Film Festival, and

Whereas, Ed LeClair has continued the Circus Smirkus tradition of international cultural exchanges through partnerships with circuses in Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, and Mongolia, and the organization participated in the 2017 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, his leadership has included: the reorganization of the Ringmaster Residency program; the purchase, historic restoration, and energy-efficiency upgrading of the organization's World Headquarters in Greensboro; and the opening of a new summer camp, also in Greensboro, culminating a \$3 million fundraising campaign, and

Whereas, he represented Circus Smirkus both nationally and internationally, has been an active member of the Vermont Creative Economy NEK Leadership Team, and served as a board member of the Circus Now trade association, and,

Whereas, Ed LeClair is concluding his innovative leadership tenure at Circus Smirkus, and he and his wife, Beth Comolli, are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Edward Knox LeClair for his outstanding service as Executive Director of Circus Smirkus, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ed LeClair and to Circus Smirkus.